



# The Baptist Record



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Disaster Unit Dedication

Mississippi Gov. Cliff Finch was among the speakers Monday during the dedication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's disaster relief unit. Behind him on the platform are Norman Godfrey of the Brotherhood Commission (not visible); Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Al Panico of the American Red Cross; Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood Department director; Rusty Griffin, disaster relief coordinator for Baptists; and Ray Lloyd, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Names Search Committee

## Brotherhood Responds To Merger Proposal

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission honored the memory of their late Executive Director Glendon McCullough, named a search committee to nominate a new chief executive, and responded to a proposal to merge the Brotherhood Commission and the Sunday School Board.

Trustees unanimously adopted a motion presented by Bobby Eklund, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hurst, Texas, responding to a proposal under study by a joint committee of the commission and the Sunday School Board to merge the two agencies.

As an interim response to the proposal, trustees urged the committee to make the study with one primary purpose in mind — "How may men and boys in local Baptist churches be enlisted and encouraged in an even greater way in missions and ministry?"

"As commissioners, we have the strong impression that this purpose can best be served if the Brotherhood Commission maintains its present status as a separate agency," the trustees declared. "If, however, careful study indicates that a merger would be more beneficial for the ongoing minis-

try of men and boys in local churches, then we will eagerly endorse a merger."

Trustees urged the study committee to "exhaust every resource in making the most thorough study of all aspects of the possible merger" and requested

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## Staff Plans Turnaround

# Board Reports Show Drops In All But Finance, Music

A challenge to Mississippi Baptists to enter into Bold Mission Thrust with new determination as that mission concept gets under way in 1979 was to be the climax of a Tuesday evening session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson this week.

The challenge was to come from Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. His message is to be found below.

Messengers were to be given a look at the status of Baptist work in the state and challenged to move into next year with a boldness that would turn statistics around and provide an aggressive witness in Mississippi and around the world.

They were to be shown graphic reports that results are not up to past years except in Cooperative Program gifts and in music.

On Pages 3, 4, and 5 of this issue is presented the information that was to be shown to messengers during the Tuesday evening session. These reports were to be presented in three facets for each department of work under the umbrella of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

### "Status Quo"

First, graphs were to be used to depict the "status quo" of Mississippi Baptists. These graphs were expected to give a picture of how the increases in

Mississippi Baptist life are not as sharply inclined as they once were.

Second, a continued visual presentation by slides was expected to indicate what the departments have determined for themselves to help Mississippi Baptists find ways of turning around sagging statistics and putting them on the upward move again. These projects are for the year ahead as Mississippi Baptists and the entire Southern Baptist Convention swing into Bold Mission Thrust.

The third area of presentation was to be the fitting of a Decade of Advance into the overall framework of Bold Mission Thrust so that there would be no overlapping or confusion as to the two concepts.

Actually, A Decade of Advance was

proposed by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, shortly after he assumed office. His proposal came at the convention in 1974 for the emphasis to be carried out from 1975 through 1984.

### Bold Mission Thrust

The concept that became Bold Mission Thrust first began to be noticed in 1976 during the Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, Va., as the SBC Missions Challenge Committee made its report. By the next year in Kansas City the idea of Bold Missions had begun to grow; and the convention adopted the Home Mission Board slogan, Bold Mission Thrust, to give it impetus.

Much of what was proposed in Bold Mission Thrust was already a part of

the Mississippi plan of A Decade of Advance.

Thus the third part of the Tuesday evening session was to be given to fitting the goals and ideals of A Decade of Advance into the hopes and dreams of Bold Mission Thrust.

Mississippians already had begun to increase Cooperative Program gifts, which was to be one of the Bold Mission Thrust goals. Mississippians had already begun an effort to have the Gospel spread as widely as possible by establishing a goal of having 2,000 churches by 1984 and being ahead of schedule in the effort.

Simply stated, the Bold Mission Thrust goal is to provide a Christian witness to everyone in the world by the

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## Convention Board Meeting Precedes State Sessions

A Mississippi Baptist disaster relief mobile unit was dedicated and a new director of the Department of Student Work was elected this week as meetings of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and its Executive Commit-

tee preceded the annual Brotherhood Rally and the first session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention that was sandwiched in between program elements of the rally.

Members of the Convention Board participated in the dedication service for the disaster unit, which was held on the parking lot of the Baptist Building. The unit is a 40-foot semi trailer and tractor equipped with living quarters for a crew and the ability to provide help for disaster victims.

Mississippi Governor Cliff Finch was the principal speaker for the dedication service, which was also address-

ed by Al Panico of the American Red Cross and Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

### People Care

Finch said he was proud to be the governor and a Baptist in a state where the people care about each other. He pointed out that Mississippi has had more natural disasters than any other state.

Following the dedication the board members moved to the Baptist Building chapel, where they elected Jerry Merriman as director-elect of the De-

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## Southern Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship Meets In Jackson

Physicians and dentists from 14 states across the south who have volunteered for work on foreign and home mission fields were among those attending the annual national meeting recently in Jackson of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship.

The fellowship is an organization of doctors who have engaged in volunteer missions work all over the world. They meet for fellowship, to share experiences, and to determine needs for their

services in the future.

David VanLandingham, Jackson physician, said there were 104 physicians and dentists present for the meeting. Also present, he said, were representatives from the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, and the Brotherhood Commission.

VanLandingham was program chairman for the meeting. He said the thrust of the meeting was to seek to determine what the needs are on the mission fields in medical and dental work and to determine how the physicians and dentists can help.

The doctors attending the fellowship meeting were, for the most part, those who have had experience in missions work on foreign fields. VanLandingham pointed out. These fields include Bangladesh, India, Gaza, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Paraguay, Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia, and Ethiopia among others. Several of those attending shared their experiences and presented slides of their work.

Career missionaries were at the meeting to give examples of needs that doctors would be able to meet on the mission fields. Among the denominational representatives present were Franklin Fowler, the medical director for the Foreign Mission Board, and

Norman Godfrey, the Brotherhood Commission staff associate for the Medical Dental Fellowship. Godfrey is chairman of the cabinet that is responsible for the operation of the Brotherhood Commission staff during the interim period when there is no executive director.

Vernon Jeffords of Spartanburg, S.C., was elected new president of the fellowship. He succeeds Tim Pennell of Winston-Salem, N.C.

The speakers for the banquet that closed the fellowship meeting was Paul Brand of India and the Leprosarium at Carville, La. Brand and his wife, also a physician, are specialists in problems of leprosy. They are British. Mrs. Brand is an eye specialist, and Brand is known as one of the world's foremost hand surgeons.

Other speakers include two Mississippians. They were Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, and John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson.

Doctors were present from Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.



## Brotherhood Rally

Jim Henry, at platform, was featured speaker during the annual state Brotherhood Rally at Daniel Memorial Baptist Church in Jackson Monday night. Clint Nichols, soloist, is seated behind Henry. Henry offered the packed auditorium at the church four challenges for missions: Be specific in your prayers for mission goals and mission volunteers, challenge the people to special mission trips, challenge the people to significant giving, and give a stirring challenge to the people. In addition, the Mississippi Baptist Convention held its opening session, though without messengers (they would register the next day), the session was to get around constitutional requirements for constitutional and by-law changes to be introduced on the first day and voted on before the last day of the convention. With a two day convention, this was otherwise impossible.

# Missions Address: "In The Midst Redeeming"

By Earl Kelly  
James 5:13-16

Malcolm Muggeridge tells of a missionary to India who, distressed at the obscenity and bestiality of the annual pagan rites, screwed up his courage one year to follow the Indian worshippers to the edge of the grove where these rites were to be performed, and there to climb a tree and preach condemnation and repentance to them.

To his surprise he wasn't lynched. But his presence at first disturbed them. The next year he did the same, though with less effect, and so on for ten years until in the end the missionary died. When the tribe heard of his death their chief came to the mission and asked whether they would provide a replacement because he had become so much a part of the show!

Is this what has happened to us? The statistics shared with you at the beginning of this program would seem to say "yes"! The regression of all the vital life signs with the exception of stewardship may indicate withdrawal from the world. Like the missionary we may have been guilty of being on the fringes condemning, instead of in the midst redeeming.

The knowledge of what is happening to our denomination should send us all to our knees in search of wisdom and to

the Bible in search of directions. Your state mission staff is convinced that it is time to do something more than cast a somber eye on "the encircling gloom."

There has been enough analysis. We must become pragmatic. Arnold Toynbee, the well known British historian, made famous his theory of challenge and response: that civilizations rise and fall in terms of how well they respond to challenges. Surely the same principle applies to your church and our denomination. In reality the denomination cannot turn the downward trends up. Whether the goals that have just been presented become more than dreams will depend on the response of the churches that make up our Convention.

I had the privilege of attending Dr. David Matthews' Convention, The General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, when it met in Vicksburg. Dr. J. H. Jackson, President of National Baptists, Incorporated, spoke on the subject, "Let the Church Be The Church."

I think he put his finger on the cause of much of our regression. We have let the church become many things that are not the church. When we spend as much for utilities to light and air-condition our church plant as we do for



Earl Kelly  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

the total cause of missions, we are not letting the church be the church. When we spend more for church recreation than we do for evangelism in our churches, we are not letting the church be the church.

Increasingly I find myself searching the pages of Holy Scripture for a word from the Lord. I am convinced that we

will not meet the challenge until we return to some simple patterns of the New Testament. In James 5:13-16 we have an open window through which we may look into the life of the early church and find it busy doing things that were not only important long ago but are equally important today.

### 1. The Early Church Was a Singing Church.

"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms." The word used here refers to singing in public worship. There are repeated references in the New Testament to the singing of early Christians. God's revelation in Christ the Saviour was the theme of Christian song. The church at its best has always been a singing church. It's time for us to cut out some of the night club acts we have brought into churches and get back to the congregational singing of the great affirmations of the faith.

Great congregational singing brings conviction, joy, and hope. We can't know for sure, but I believe Paul and Silas shook Philippi during the midnight hour with songs that magnified a loving, victorious God. We need to return to great congregational singing that expresses an inner conviction. This need logically calls for the church to be a happy church.

### 2. The Early Church Was a Healing Church.

Anyone who was ill was to get in touch with the elders of the church who would come and pray over him. We have become so frightened over the excesses of charismatics that we have neglected to pray "the prayer of faith that will save the sick man." Independent evangelists who purloin our immature members have taken note of the vacuum and have played it to the hilt for monetary gain. That faith and prayer are important to health and healing is a New Testament truth we need to emphasize. This need logically calls for the church to be a healing church.

### 3. The Early Church Was a Praying Church.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray," said James, who then declared, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The weakest link in our churches is the prayer link. The goals which we have set for ourselves in our Bold Mission Thrust can't be reached by human effort.

We must seek the power and resources of God through prayer. Our denomination could become a power-

ful force if those of us here this evening would start a vital prayer movement in our own lives. The churches need to become centers for prayer. This need logically calls for the church to be a praying church.

### 4. The Early Church Was a Church with a Message of Divine Pardon.

"If he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another." This promise of pardon is extended to all classes and all colors. I fear that we have been selective in proclaiming pardon. There are "sect like" churches all over the state where there should be strong aggressive Baptist churches simply because we have been too parochial in proclaiming pardon.

I recall the words of George MacLeod, "I simply argue that the cross be raised again in the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in

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## Editorials

### Bold Mission Thrust . . .

## Get On With The Impossible

The Scripture indicates that the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the sons of the east were numberless when the Lord got word to Gideon that time had come to put them to flight.

All the power that Gideon could have gathered up would not have been capable of taking care of the situation. Evidently there were 32,300 soldiers of one sort or another on hand to try to do what they could. There were 22,000 of them who just didn't want to be involved in the problem if they didn't have to, and they went home when given the opportunity. Another 10,000 were willing but not as aware of their

surroundings as they needed to be, so they were dismissed.

That left 300, which was a ridiculously small number for the job at hand; but the Lord had a plan, and it worked.

Southern Baptists now have begun to feel that the Lord has proposed a plan for carrying a witness to the entire world by the end of the century. Our people who are aware enough of the needs and are interested enough to get involved will not be enough to get the job done. Not enough, that is, unless we allow the Lord to work it out with His plan.

Not enough unless, through the lead-

ership of the Lord, we get on with it.

Bold Mission Thrust is the concept under which Southern Baptists are beginning this attempt to tell everyone on earth about Jesus Christ. Mississippi Baptists are as involved as anyone in this endeavor, and the plans that are being made for implementation are to be found in this issue of the Baptist Record.

Make no mistake — the task begins at home. If we don't tell the person across the street, then everyone in the world will never hear the witness. We must move from home, however, and move rapidly. The birth rate alone all over the world is staggering.

Mississippians are prepared to move into Bold Mission Thrust with aggressiveness. When this concept evolved at the Southern Baptist Convention level we were already engaged in much the same sort of effort which we called A Decade of Advance.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention this year is a springboard into Bold Mission Thrust. Read the plans that are in this issue of the Baptist Record, and find your place around the camp with your pitcher, your lamp, and your trumpet.

The Lord will tell you what to do with them.

### Guest Editorial . . .

## Deceptive Degrees

By Edgar R. Cooper

Thomas A. Kilgore, Jr., out-going president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, had some choice words about ministers who sport phony degrees. Addressing the 17th annual conference of his denomination, he called for responsibility, religious honesty and competence.

Kilgore, in speaking about ministers and degrees, is reported by Religious News Service as saying:

"The preaching leadership should be saved, sainted and studied. Too many preachers want the title 'Dr.' without earning it.

"It doesn't enhance your status to put a bogus 'D.D.' or a bought 'P.H.D.' behind your name when you have not merited them through extraordinary competent service, or stem, rigorous and diligent academic study.

"If the rigorous standards about false degrees applied to preachers as they do to doctors and lawyers, some of you might be in jail instead of in the pulpit. In plain words, I am saying,

'Let's dignify the ministry.' Use your God-given talents and be what you are — practically everybody knows it when you try to be what you ain't."

We have been sold on the idea that our society is degree oriented. To be recognized and successful, it is considered mandatory we claim some academic degree. Unfortunately a great percentage of the population really believe that malarky and are ready for the "easy" degree.

Ministers are the worst offenders. Wanting to be "something they ain't" in the eyes of the world, preachers de-

grade the ministry by buying a doctor's degree or doing substandard work to "earn" one. God-called preachers should be ashamed to traffic in such fraud. Spirit-led churches ought to reprimand the minister who takes a short cut in academic pursuits then claims an honor he doesn't deserve.

Thomas Kilgore is right. Prophets of God should dignify the ministry, not degrade it.

Edgar R. Cooper is editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

## Letters To The Editor

### Don't Change Brotherhood

Dear Editor:

I read with much dismay the recent article on the Brotherhood in the Nov. 2 edition of the Baptist Record. I cannot conceive of any Baptist group considering combining the Baptist Brotherhood with the Sunday School Board. I feel that this would be the end of the men's work in missions at a time when they are just beginning to get started through the "Bold Missions" Program. I also feel that anyone who would propose such a change is uninformed regarding the purpose of the two groups. I am wondering why the church women's organizations were not included in this proposed change? Perhaps it is because they have been following the Lord's will, while the men are just not getting personally involved in missions.

The purpose of the Sunday School is just what the name implies. A school established by the church to train its members to learn the true meaning of the Bible, learn of the meaning of the life of our Christ, and once having accepted Him as their Saviour, to apply these meanings in their daily living with others. The Sunday School is a conditioning process to strengthen the spiritual developments of church members.

The purpose of the Brotherhood, as I see it, is to take those male church members of all ages and involve them directly and indirectly in mission activities in all areas of the world. According to the commandment of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Acts 1:8. The key words are direct action and involvement.

One of the main differences in the organizations is that the Sunday School is a "school" primarily for

those who are members of a church while the Brotherhood is primarily for involving church men and boys in mission activities both at home and away from home with individuals and groups who have special needs which when met will bring them closer to the Lord and bless those participating church men in a special way. This kind of experience cannot be accomplished in any other manner. You will notice that the activity is carried on outside of the church and with those who in most cases are not members of the local church. Is this not what Acts 1:8 tells us to do?

I feel that the real Brotherhood movement is just beginning and the thrust comes from the bold mission concept. It takes three for a brotherhood to make progress: a pastor with a broad vision of what the church should be doing, a dedicated minister of education who seeks positive action in new ways, and a Brotherhood director who has visioned the green pastures beyond the narrow limits of the present day church. I might add that it also takes a state Brotherhood director who can put it all together such as Mr. Paul Harrell of our Mississippi State Baptist Convention Board. Sincerely, Charles W. Scott, Ed. D., Director of the Brotherhood First Church, Clinton

### Mississippi Missionary

Dear Bro. McGregor:

Much water has gone under the bridge since I received your good letter July 2, 1978. On July 6, I went quickly to Baptist Hospital here — results pacemaker installed in my chest. I am catching up with my mail.

Yes I feel like I know you. I was with your father in Arkansas once. Then I

knew of you through Rev. and Mrs. Barney Thames of Dallas. I believe you were with Baptist Standard and she was there too.

Now about the Record. Yes, I had been receiving the Record for a long time or some time complimentary, but it suddenly stopped. I just wanted to get it. I am a Mississippian — Kemper and Neshoba Counties — Mississippi College man — married in Copiah County. I was pastor of Senatobia, First Church when I was called to First, Lafayette, La. I was superintendent of Baptist City Missions of New Orleans for 13 years. Have been with Home Mission Board for many years and now am an assigned worker of board.

On Sept. 10 the State Convention Board of Louisiana and First Baptist Church of N. O. had a special birthday service, presenting me with a plaque for years of service in South French, Louisiana. Pardon all of this.

Now, I would appreciate having the Record again. Find a signed check. If not enough let me know. Thank you. Blessings on you.

Sincerely,  
J. C. Wells  
1787 Lafreniere St.  
New Orleans, LA 70122

### Golden Gate Music

Dear Friends in Christ:

The very best music training program for church leaders is our goal at Golden Gate Seminary. I deeply appreciate the work which has gone into the development of the music faculty and program at the seminary. We will continue to do all that we can to see that the very best faculty available take part in what we are endeavoring

to do in preparing leadership for churches.

Dr. Al Washburn, the newest addition of the music faculty at the seminary, comes with 16 years of experience as a minister of music in local churches. He has a wealth of background and practical experience which he will bring to the classroom. He has broad interest, including graded choirs, keyboard, and choral work. As I visited with him about the possibility of his coming to Golden Gate, I was deeply impressed with his mission commitment. He believes in mission, evangelism, and the work of the local church. He wants to see persons who are in the music ministry be trained for ministry. He has developed a special course in the minister of music relating to personal spiritual growth, visitation and outreach, evangelism, and ministry to those in crisis.

Dr. Washburn and his wife, Sylvia, with their two sons, Michael and Mark, will be joining us in January. Allison, their daughter, is in college. I trust that you will pray for them as they make the move to Golden Gate to begin a venture of preparing church ministers for our churches.

William M. Pinson, Jr., President  
Golden Gate Seminary  
Mill Valley, Calif.

My dear friend of many years standing not only is going to be a top-flight administrator for Golden Gate Seminary — he also knows how to get in a top-flight public relations plug for the school. It is appreciated, and we pass it along to Mississippi Baptists with best wishes for Golden Gate. Landrum Leavell, Russell Dilday, Milton Ferguson, Duke McCall, and Randall Lolley, you are due equal space.

omissions had their inception in a peculiarly local setting, like a parish church, a home, college, hospital or other institution bearing a denominational name."

Such a situation, the brief continued, poses a potential "chilling effect on the free conduct of religious activities."

The "judicial errors" of the California court, the argument declared, "alter the polity and inter-relationships among agencies within the United Methodist connection, and implicate serious constitutional questions of religious freedom" for United Methodists and other denominations.

The superior court of San Diego County argued in its legal brief submitted to the justices, that because the General Council is the central treasury and fiscal agency of the church and does business in California, "the polity of the United Methodist Church is irrelevant" to the case.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### The Convention 25 Years Ago

What happened at the Mississippi Baptist Convention 25 years ago? Do you remember?

It was held at First Baptist Church, Jackson, where that year an education building was under construction, and Douglas Hudgins was pastor. The dates were Nov. 17, 18, and 19.

A youth rally on closing night was at City Auditorium on the corner of Congress and Pearl. Howard Butt, 25-year-old owner of a grocery store chain, was the speaker. Reid Moore and Russell McIntire directed the combined college choirs, accompanied by Hazel Chisolm on the organ.

Though I first came to work in Mississippi in May, 1953 I was not at the 1953 convention as I had gone back to Southwestern Seminary that semester. But I've looked through the Baptist Record for that year and can tell you some of the main events.

John E. Barnes of Main Street, Hattiesburg, Convention president, delivered the president's address. Harold Basden, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, preached the convention sermon.

W. R. Roberts, state Brotherhood director, presided over the Monday afternoon men's rally. Speakers were James L. Sullivan, Carl Bates, and A. W. Talbert of Macedonia Church, Brookhaven.

The Executive Committee met Monday morning and the full Convention Board in the afternoon at the Baptist Building on the corner of Congress and Mississippi. J. R. Davis was president of the Board.

During the convention Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, announced that the Convention Board had recommended a \$1,500,000 Cooperative Program goal for 1954.

One big issue before the convention was the proposed Baptist Hospital Medical Arts Building project.

Another was the Mississippi Woman's College question. I. E. Rouse was president of the college. The Education Commission gave the convention three options — close the college as of June 30, 1954; begin a co-

educational junior college; begin a co-educational senior college. As most people know by now, Mississippi Woman's College became William Carey College.

In 1953, Mississippi Baptists numbered 407,000 in 1700 churches. In 1978 there are 600,609 in 1937 churches. The Cooperative Program goal for next year is \$10,000,000.

Messengers to the 1953 convention ate at places like the Old Southern Tea Room on Amite Street and the Jitney Jungle cafeteria on Capitol Street. Wives shopped at Kennington's and Emporium.

Those who stayed in hotels were at the Walthall, the Heidelberg, the Robert E. Lee, or the Edwards. An ad in the Baptist Record that week for the Jackson Hotel Association said, "Jackson is exceptionally fortunate in having some of the best, most efficiently run hotels in the nation. Their standards of service and hospitality are second to none. It is a pleasure to welcome the Mississippi Baptist Convention to Jackson."

I do remember the 1954 convention because that was the first one I attended. Dr. A. L. Goodrich, Baptist Record editor, ordered corsages for Mrs. Doss Smith and me, to match our dresses. I wore a black wool suit with decorative purple embroidery, so he ordered lavender chrysanthemums for me. It was a very cold walk from the Baptist Building to the church; then I stood in the foyer and showed slides advertising the good points of the Baptist Record.

To Dr. Goodrich, Baptist conventions were extremely important. He wrote in an editorial, Nov. 12, 1953:

"The Convention is God's business and should be conducted by God's methods. Vision is important. Makeshift, short-sighted decisions and programs should have no place in our affairs. Let us look at all our work and not one small part. We must cooperate. Disunity and wire pulling spell disaster in capital letters. In unity there is strength. Pull for what we think is best but when the decision is made let's do our best to make it our program and work for its success."

## Book Reviews

TAKE HEART by Rosalie Givens Alderman (Broadman, 128 pp., \$2.95)

The author, a former Mississippian, is a housewife, Bible teacher, and freelance writer from Hope, Ark. While she was recuperating from a heart attack, she felt that God was pressing her into a ministry to senior citizens and others in a nursing home. The story of her friendships with "forgotten" people is a touching one, and well written. Mrs. Alderman began teaching Bible weekly in a nursing home; she sought to help the residents realize that life was not over just because they were ill or seemingly forgotten, but that there is a worthwhile work that God has for every person, as long as there is life. Joe Odle, former editor of the Baptist Record, wrote the Foreword. He was Mrs. Alderman's pastor when she lived at Crystal Springs.

TRUTH ON TRIAL by Sam and Ginny Cannata with Jack R. Taylor (Broadman, 180 pp., paper, \$3.95) In 1977, Sam Cannata, medical missionary was arrested in Ethiopia and put in prison. His wife (a Mississippian) and children were also taken into custody for a short time. This book is the story of Dr. Cannata's ordeal, and his miraculous release in answer to prayer. It is surely one of the most amazing true stories of modern times. Jack Taylor, a friend of the Cannatas, collaborated with them in the writing of it. He says, "You will see some of the principles of the Scriptures in motion and under fire. From the first moment I heard of the imprisonment of Sam Cannata, I had no anxiety for the Cannatas, the cause of Christ, or the power of the Word to stand the test. I began to sense in a real way that truth, not Sam,

was on trial. And truth would stand the test as it always does."

BRIGHAM YOUNG AND ME, CLARISSA by Barbara Williams (Doubleday, \$6.95, \$3.95 pp.) This entertaining novel is based on the reminiscences of Clarissa Hamilton Young, the 51st child of the Mormon leader, Brigham Young. The story is told from the viewpoint of the child Clarissa. She says that her father has "19 wives and 55 children, and loves me as if I were the only one." The book gives some insight into the history and beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

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## High Court Rejects Appeal Of United Methodist Unit

By Stan L. Hestey

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U. S. Supreme Court will not hear arguments that an agency of the United Methodist Church should not be included in a California suit against a group of Methodist-related homes for the aged.

Church-state experts believe the case has potentially far-reaching implications for all denominations. The high court's refusal to hear the case has the effect of leaving in place the decision of California state court that an agency of a denomination must stand trial for the actions of an institution bearing its name but over which it has no control.

The General Council on Finance and Administration of the United Methodist Church, based in Evanston, Ill., faces at least three lawsuits totaling more than \$400 million, all related to the bankruptcy of Pacific Homes, a

California corporation which operates 14 homes for the aged. The General Council, one of 13 denominational agencies of the United Methodist Church, distributes Methodist missions funds to all other national denominational agencies.

The church-state controversy arose when some 150 residents of Pacific Homes filed suit against the corporation, the General Council, and the United Methodist Church when the homes declared bankruptcy early last year. Both the General Council and the church sought release from the suit, arguing in a California state court that the denomination has no financial liability for corporations such as Pacific Homes. The California court dropped the denomination as a whole but not the General Council.

In legal papers filed with the Supreme Court, the General Council pointed to Methodists' "connectional

form of church polity as argument that neither the denomination nor any of its agencies is liable for organizations not under their control.

The General Council pointed out in its brief to the high court that it has no property, office, or employees in California and has never had any involvement with Pacific Homes. Those considerations should have exempted the General Council from any liability incurred by the homes, the argument continued.

The brief also pointed to wider ranging potential dangers in holding a denominational agency liable for damages in such instances. "It is reasonable to expect," the brief declared, "that our international religious systems and their major boards and agencies will emerge increasingly as targets of litigation in distant forums, where, as here, the alleged acts or



# Sunday School Aims At Reaching More People For Bible Study

Reaching more people for Bible Study is the major Sunday School Department thrust for 1979.

After an enrolment loss of 890 in 1977, and 4300 in 1978, renewed efforts are mandatory to recoup these losses and to attain a projected enrolment goal of 363,384.

Based on the 1976 enrolment figures, we must enrol 27,071 in 1979 to achieve our goal.

The most excellent plans and programs fail unless adopted and applied within the structure of the local church.

Reaching more people for Bible Study is the direct responsibility of the churches. The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department exists to assist churches in reversing the downward trend of Sunday School enrolment.

Therefore, applying practical, tried and proven Sunday School outreach principles is the solution for accomplishing enrolment goal of 363,384 and an average attendance goal of 196,227.

Reaching people for Bible study must not become an end in itself rather it must become the means to an end which is salvation and maturity in the Christian life.

Improving Bible teaching enhances the degree of intensity with which a person responds to the Lordship of Christ.

Ill prepared and indifferent teachers communicate similar ideas. Whereas the trained, vibrant, and enthusiastic teacher produces like minded pupils.

Training opportunities have been projected in 1979 for 3,000 persons. Study Course Awards are resultant with training, whether received in conference or individual study.

The projected goal for 1979 is 4,000 Sunday School workers earning 5000 Study Course Awards.

Final statistics for Vacation Bible Schools will not be available until

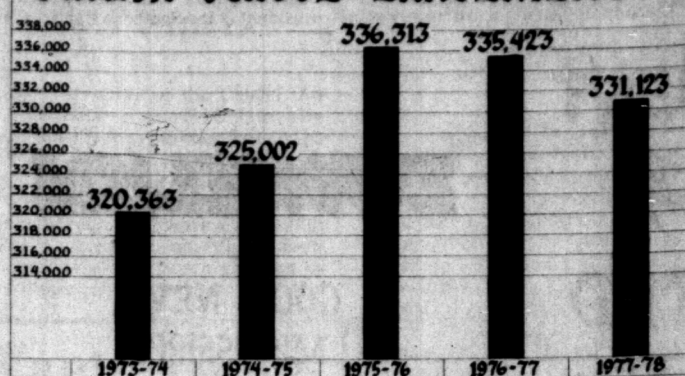
January. In lieu of this report, percentage figures are used to state projected gains:

Church Vacation Bible Schools — 3% increase; Backyard Bible Clubs — 6% increase and Mission Vacation Bible

Schools — 7% increase.

The Bold Mission Thrust calls for BOLD IMAGINATION, BOLD PLANS and BOLD ACTIONS in REACHING, TEACHING and DEVELOPING persons for Christ.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLMENT



## Long Range Plans Include Net Gains Through 1984

The objective of the Sunday School Department is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving the Sunday School program.

This includes aid in the teaching of the biblical revelation, reaching persons for Bible study, Christ, and church membership, and leading all church members to perform the functions of the church.

The department has been assigned responsibilities in work with kindergarten-day care and library promotion.

Enrollment in Mississippi Baptist

Sunday Schools stood at 336,000 at the end of the 1977 church year.

If projections hold through 1984, total Sunday School enrollment in the state should reach 401,206. This figure is based on a seven year percentage increase of 19.41 percent, or a numerical gain of 65,205.

By the end of 1978, there should be a five percent increase over 1977 to 352,800. This would be an increase of 16,800.

Subsequent year's figures are projected to be smaller in net gains. The 1979 increase is projected at three per-

(Continued on page 6)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. Increase state Sunday School Enrolment by 16,000 to 363,384 by 9/30/79

2. Increase Sunday School Average Attendance by 9000 to 196,227 by 9/30/79

## WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

### TEACH MISSIONS: TO LIVE, TO GIVE

WMU's 1978-79 Churchwide Missions Education Events for Bold Mission Thrust — Developing Missions Lifestyles

### BAPTIST WOMEN YEAR IN THE CHURCH

WMU's Invitation to Double the Number of Women Doing Missions for the Church

### MORE ORGANIZATIONS — MORE MEMBERS

## 1979 Slant: "To Live, To Give" Aims For Missions Lifestyle

The year 1978-79 is the last of a three-year blitz of special WMU promotions to improve the image and quality of missions education. Side effects of this emphasis are increased participation in mission study and personal involvement in Bold Mission Thrust for all church members.

This next year's slant, "to live, to give," aims at helping women and girls to make missions a lifestyle. Special activities for "Teach Missions, to Live, to Give" include the following:

WMU will provide educational bulletin boards containing missions information for the whole church.

Enlistment efforts will be directed toward persons who are missing out on missions education now. WMU will provide opportunities to suit the availability of these persons.

All church members will be exposed to missions information in a churchwide missions prayer retreat in April. Prayer partnerships will be formed at this time, and learning will

accompany year-long prayer for missions.

Studies of missions books in the Foreign Mission Graded Series and the Home Mission Graded Series will be staged for the entire church constituency, with cooperation of the pastor.

Study of missions books in the Church Study Course will be stressed. WMUers of all ages will be challenged to read missions publications individually, systematically.

Family mission study, via reading and discussing missions books at home, will be suggested.

The church will be encouraged to provide a missions education periodical for every church member.

The church year 1978-79 is a special time to focus attention on Baptist Women, the part of Woman's Missionary Union that involves women thirty and older. During this emphasis, the staff hopes to do these things:

Increase the significance of the missions work done through Baptist Women;

Increase the effectiveness of missions education among Southern Baptist women;

Do a better job of study, prayer, and action through missions groups;

Double the number of Baptist Women members.

Begin one new Baptist Women organization in each church;

Form at least one new mission study group in each Baptist Women organization;

Provide a Royal Service subscription to every woman (thirty and over) in the church.

Throughout Woman's Missionary Union, the Department will be striving to increase our membership and create more age level organizations in Mississippi Baptist churches. State goal for 1978-79 in WMU is to have 300 new units and 1029 new members.

## WMU Wants Nearly 4,900 More Enrolled

The objective of Woman's Missionary Union Department is to assist churches and associations in enlarging and improving Woman's Missionary Union.

This includes aid in the tasks of teaching missions, engaging in World Mission Action, and supporting World Missions through praying and giving for women, girls, and pre-school boys and girls.

It has been assigned the responsibility of operating Camp Garaywa. Statewide, enrollment in WMU at the end of church year 1977, totaled 51,453.

Projections for increased enroll-

## Church Training Makes Plans To Offset Enrolment Losses

The objective of the Church Training Department is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving the Church Training program.

This includes training in orientations to new members, training church members to perform the functions of the church, providing leadership training, and teaching Christian history and church polity and organization.

It has been assigned the responsibility of promotion of work with the men-

tally retarded, recreation, and senior adults.

Church Training enrollment in Mississippi Baptist churches since 1950 has grown from 91,592 to 127,374 in 1977. It peaked in 1962 at 146,408, before it dropped to its present level.

Estimates for increases in enrollment to the end of 1984 would reach to 159,644.

If estimates are attained through the next six years, the 1978 final enrollment in Church Training would be 129,921. This is with a two percent increase over that of 1977.

The year 1979 should yield a four percent increase for an enrollment total of 135,118. 1980 figures include a three percent jump up to 139,171.

The year 1981 should get a two percent increase to 141,955. 1982 should also reach an additional two percent for enrollment totals of 144,794. 1983 is projected to have another two percent increase to 147,690. And 1984 should have still another two percent increase, according to department projections to total 159,644 persons enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Church Training programs.

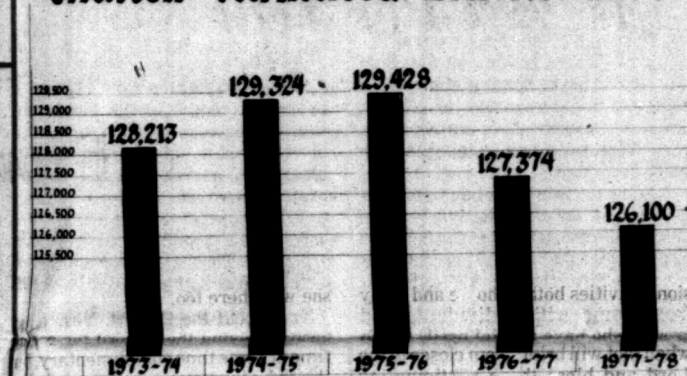
## CHURCH TRAINING GROWTH

Report an Enrollment Increase of 2% (2547) in 1978-79

A. Introduce Equipping Center Concept and Materials

B. Introduce "Build-up" Enrollment Program

## CHURCH TRAINING ENROLMENT



## Equipping Centers Are 1979 CT Focal Point

Two new innovations in Church Training will be introduced in 1979 which will have far reaching and significant impacts on the number of people involved in training.

The first of these is the Equipping Center concept which focuses study around six subject areas including evangelism, family life, and doctrine. Equipping Centers are short term study resources with new approaches to training.

The second innovation is called "Build-Up," an enrollment program designed by Andy Anderson of the Sunday School Board and patterned after his successful Action program for Sunday School.

Each year for the last four years the number of requests for leader training events has risen with the result that now a much larger percentage of workers are exposed to some type of training in skills needed for their elected responsibilities. These four vehicles provide the greatest opportunities for providing this training.

Special projects which are not directly related to the Sunday evening activities occupy a unique place in church life.

This year Baptist Doctrine Study, which is similar in purpose to January Bible Study, will offer the doctrine of salvation as its focal point.

Participation in Children's Bible Drill, Youth Bible Drill and Youth Speakers' Tournament has been in-

creasing at the rate of 50% or more per year for the last four years.

The "Five Star Award" emphasis gives recognition to five specified achievements of a churches training organization.

Youth Week, a tradition in most churches, continues to offer youths an

(Continued on page 5)

## BROTHERHOOD

1. Expand the Teaching Audience in MISSIONARY EDUCATION

2. Increase the Number Participating in MISSION ACTIVITIES

3. Enlarge the Scope of ROYAL AMBASSADOR CAMPING

## Brotherhood Slates Rise Of 3,395

The objective of the Brotherhood Department is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving the Brotherhood program.

This includes teaching missions, engaging in mission action and supporting World Missions through praying and giving for men and boys.

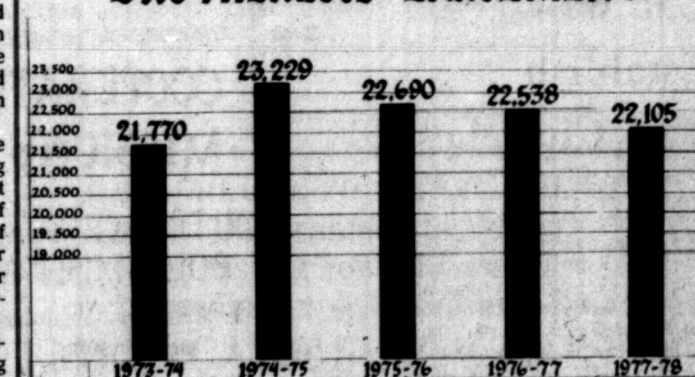
It has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating special mission projects, developing and coordinating a disaster task force, and operating Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

Enrollment figures for church brotherhoods in Mississippi totaled 22,529 at the end of September, 1977. A two percent increase in membership each year through 1984 has been projected.

This two percent increase would yield at the end of 1978 a total of 23,020; 1979 at 23,480; 1980 at 23,950; 1981 at 24,429; 1982 at 24,918; 1983 at 25,416; and 1984 at 25,924.

If projected increases are reached, the seven year figures would increase 15 percent with increases of 3,395.

## BROTHERHOOD ENROLMENT



## Enlargement Of Units Is Brotherhood Priority

In 1979 the Brotherhood Department plans to expand the teaching audience in Missionary Education. Enlargement of Brotherhood Organizational units will be a priority in 1979.

Two strategies have been planned to help accomplish this expansion.

1. Every church in the state is being asked to elect a Brotherhood Director, whose name will be placed on the Brotherhood Department mailing list.

Through direct mail, many concepts of Brotherhood work, that may not have reached every church, will now be available to all churches.

2. By January 1, 1979, an individualized copy of Brotherhood in Mississippi Churches will be provided to each Church Brotherhood Director.

This booklet will contain a brief statement of philosophy, various organizational structures, job descriptions, planning concepts and a variety of mission project activities.

The department also plans to increase the number participating in Mission Activities. The Bold Mission Thrust has been communicating to lay persons that they can be "on mission" for Christ.

This past year, more than 600 persons are recorded as having participated in a mission project activity.

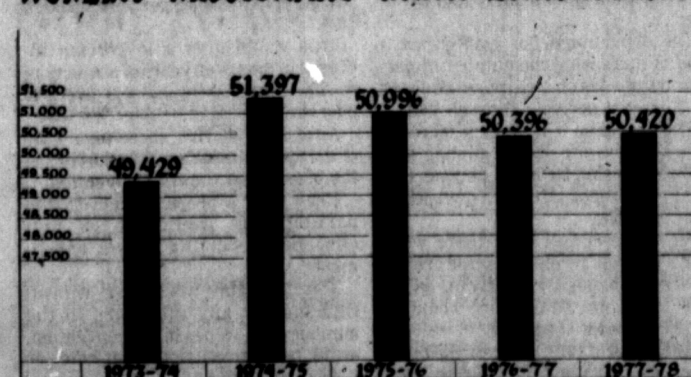
For the year 1979, every church in our state has been asked to choose at least one additional mission project. Many churches will discuss the great opportunities of ministry in their local community.

Others will find their boldness in Home and Foreign Mission projects. Each association has been challenged to choose at least one mission project beyond the state.

The Brotherhood Department will be coordinating mission projects in the state, also California, Michigan, Hon-

(Continued on page 5)

## WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION ENROLMENT





## Stewardship Staff Will Visit Every Association In State

Stewardship Department plans for 1979 will take the staff into every association in the state for a special conference dealing with the development of committed Christian stewards.

Most of these conferences are scheduled in June, July, and August. In these meetings the department proposes to look at problems in the area of finance, the programs that are recommended to help correct the problems, and how a church can move for the very first time into a budget promotion campaign.

During the early part of 1979 the three men on the staff will be spending a week in three associations served by the same director of associational missions.

They will be meeting with the pastor and deacons of a different church each night to help them get involved in their first church budget promotion. This gives a potential of fifteen churches in

one week, none of which have ever had a budget promotion campaign.

The staff is open to talking to any leader of an association that feels this approach would be helpful in their situation.

Throughout the year the staff will be involved daily with pastors and other church financial leaders who seek counsel and advice concerning their 1980 budget, its planning and promotion.

Sometimes it is helpful for a staff member to visit a church and spend an evening with the leadership expanding or improving their methods of raising or handling church finances.

Involved in all of the department's meetings will be an emphasis on the Cooperative Program as the channel for world missions support.

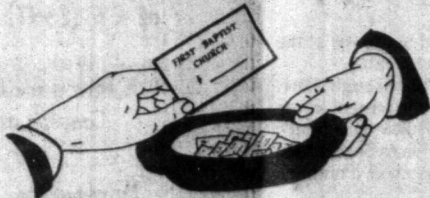
Churches will be urged to give a definite percentage of all undesignated receipts through this pipeline of mis-

sions support and to prayerfully consider adopting a schedule for regular annual increases to fund the BOLD MISSION THRUST thru AD. 2000.

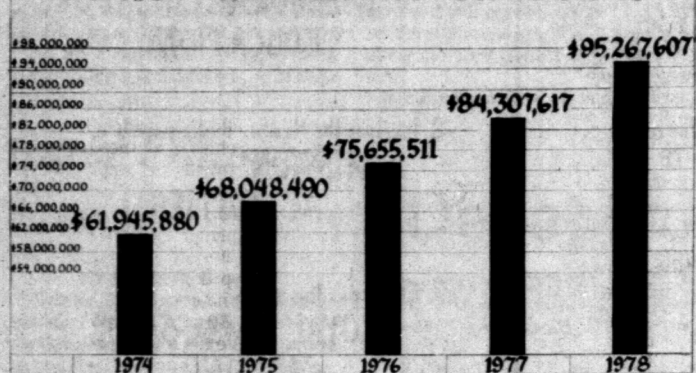
The Cooperative Program remains the most economical, dependable, and intelligent way to underwrite a world mission endeavor.

In 1978, 97 1/2 percent of all Missions (Continued on page 5)

## DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTED CHRISTIAN STEWARDS



### TOTAL GIVING IN CHURCHES



## Stewardship Wants To Help Churches Increase CP Gifts 1/2% Per Year

The objective of the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving plans for increased support of missionary, educational, and benevolent work of the denomination through the Cooperative Program.

Four major areas of giving are in focus for the department: increasing per capita giving, increasing the percentage of church offering going to the Cooperative Program, increasing actual Cooperative Program gifts, and increasing Cooperative Program gifts going outside the state to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Department director John Alexander reports that the department is reaching for a 1984 giving goal of \$140.21 per church member.

From 1975 through 1977, this goal was reached. The three year average increase has been 10.8 percent, placing per capita giving at \$110.20 per church member.

If the increases continue at this rate, per capita gifts will total \$288.91.

The original projections, put together in 1975, place per capita gifts in 1978 at \$114.06; 1979 at \$118.05; 1980 at \$122.18; 1981 at \$126.46; 1982 at \$130.89; 1983 at \$135.47; and 1984 at \$140.21.

Another area the department is

working in is helping churches to increase the percentage of offering which goes to the Cooperative Program. This is for undesignated gifts only.

A half a percent rise each year is the goal. If reached, the 1984 percentage of church offerings to the Cooperative Program would be 13.83 percent.

Actual gifts through 1977, though, are dropping. From 1976 to 1977 the actual percentage of gifts through the church offering to the Cooperative Program dropped from 9.57 percent to 9.40 percent.

If this rate continues through 1984, the actual percentage will drop to 7.06 percent. These figures are based on static memberships. One reason for the drop is that as inflation hits the church budgets, the budgets go up, but not the percentage, even though the actual gifts go up.

The projected rises in percentages of Cooperative Program gifts through the church offering is slated at 10.83 percent in 1978; 11.33 in 1979; 11.83 in 1980; 12.33 in 1981; 12.83 in 1982; 13.33 in 1983; and 13.83 in 1984.

The drops in actual percentages, based on 1975-77 figures, would be down to 8.07 percent in 1978; 8.41 in 1979; 8.12 in 1980; 7.84 in 1981; 7.57 in 1982; 7.31 in 1983; and finally, 7.06 percent in 1984.

Projected figures for Cooperative program income to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will have to be refigured in light of the giving patterns of the past three years. The 1975 projection was \$6.6 million with an actual income of \$6.5 million. 1976 brought in \$7.2 million with \$7.3 million projected. Then with \$7.5 million projected, the actual income as \$7.9 million. (Continued on page 5)

## Evangelism Will Be Involved In Good News, Mississippi

The Evangelism Department will be heavily involved this next year in Good News Mississippi.

It is a cooperative venture involving churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Conventions in simultaneous revivals during the month of April, 1979.

Preparations for this Bold Mission campaign began early last year with the development of an interracial

committee, and is nearing completion with all signs "go," according to Roy Collum, evangelism director.

Just prior to the simultaneous revivals in April, will be a joint kick-off rally to be held in Jackson March 23 at the city auditorium with W. A. Criswell and Caesar Scott as guest preachers.

Criswell is pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., and a former president of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention, Scott is pastor of Good Street Missionary Baptist Church, also in Dallas, and editor of the "National Voice," official publication of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

As a vital part of preparation for Good News Mississippi, Witness Commitment Day, on the second Sunday in January, is an effort to secure the personal commitment of our membership to reach the unsaved in one-on-one presentations of the Gospel.

Commitment cards for the churches are being provided free of charge by the Evangelism Department. Several thousands of the commitment cards have already been mailed to a number of churches who have requested them.

Witness Training is an urgent necessity for enabling our people to be effective personal soul winners. Lay Evangelism Schools (WIN), Good News Miss. Schools (an abbreviated and simplified form of Witness Training) are increasing this year, and a number are scheduled to be held in the preparation days for Good News Miss. (Continued on page 5)

## EVANGELISM

### I. GOOD NEWS MISSISSIPPI

### II. WITNESS COMMITMENT

### III. WITNESS TRAINING

## Evangelism Predicts Drop In Baptism Ratio

The objective of the Evangelism Department is to assist churches and associations in interpreting, promoting, and properly relating the message, methods, motivations, and spirit of New Testament evangelism.

In 1973, Mississippi Baptist churches baptized 18,351 people. This, according to a Baptist population of 570,644, adds up to a baptism rate of one to 31.09. This ratio means that one person was baptized for every 31 Baptist church members.

Since 1974, that number has dropped though church membership has risen slightly each year. This means that it is taking more church members for each baptism.

In 1977, with 600,609 Mississippi Baptists, there were 14,064 baptisms at a ratio of one to 42.71.

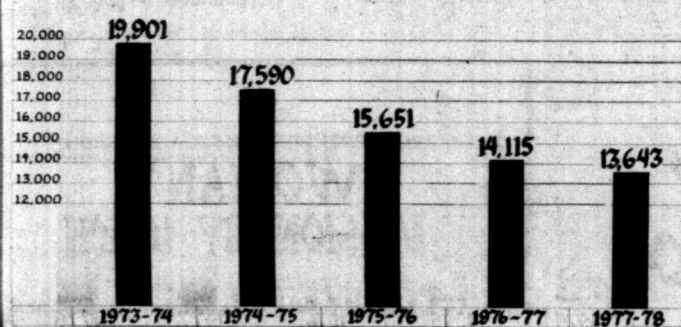
The years 1973-77 yield an average net gain per year (adding baptisms, new members, and dropping those who move their letters out of state or who die) of 5,599, with an average baptism ratio of one to 36.71.

Projections for the future look brighter. Estimates from the department predict the evangelism ratio will drop year by year from 1978 to 1984 until it only takes 25 church members to baptize a person. This would be a ratio of one to 25.

The 1968 membership is predicted to be 608,100 with 15,134 baptisms at a ratio of one to 40.18.

1979 membership is projected at 615,591 with 16,350 baptisms at a ratio of one to 37.65. 1980: 623,082 with 17,741 baptisms at one to 35.12; 1981: 630,573 with 19,348 baptisms at (Continued on page 6)

## BAPTISMS



## Music Will Give Opportunities For Mission/Outreach Projects

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department had developed plans for 1979 in a number of areas: growth of music ministries, music/missions outreach, equipping, Church Music RFD, cooperative ministries, and information and administrative actions.

The music ministries growth includes increasing by 3 percent music enrollment in Mississippi; increasing the number of churches reporting music enrollment on their Annual Let-

ter to 81,406; and enlisting 150 associational music officers.

Music missions/outreach includes making all churches in Mississippi aware of opportunities for mission/outreach involvement;

involving 200 churches in music missions and 300 churches in music outreach projects;

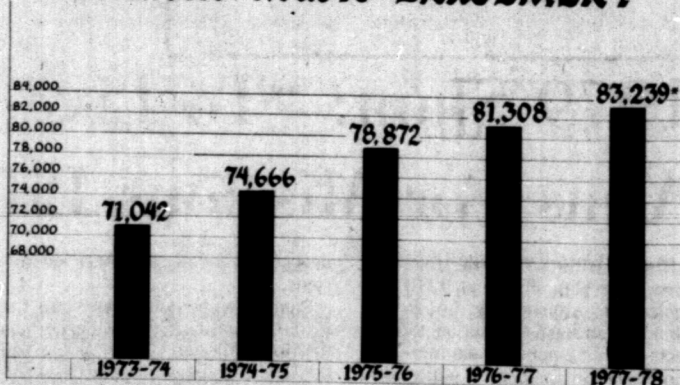
involving Mississippi Singing Churchmen in a mission tour of Spain.

The area of equipping persons through musical and spiritual experi-

ences includes providing opportunities for 25,000 lay leaders to improve their leadership skills;

providing music experiences which (Continued on page 5)

## CHURCH MUSIC ENROLLMENT



By 1984

## Music Expects 84% Jump In Enrollment

The objective of the Church Music Department is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving the music program.

This includes teaching music and hymnody, training persons to sing, play, and lead music, and providing music in the church and community.

It has been assigned the responsibility of organizing and directing the Singing Churchmen and Churchwomen.

The department has established a goal of increasing the number of persons enrolled in church music ministry by 3 percent per year through 1984.

This would be a 23 percent increase for a seven year period beginning with 1977, increasing by 18,805 persons to a total enrollment of 100,629 persons by Sept. 30, 1984.

As of the end of 1977, there were 81,824 persons enrolled in some area of local church music work. By the end of 1978, the projected increase would be 2,454 for a total of 84,278.

By the end of 1979, there should be an increase of 2,528 that year to total

86,806; 1980, increase 2,604 to total 89,410; 1981 increase 2,682 to total 92,092;

1982 increase 2,762 to total 94,854; 1983 increase 2,845 to total 97,699. And the final year in the projection to the end of 1984 should yield an increase of 2,930 to a total enrollment of 100,629.

The department's goal in the number of churches reporting music enrollments on their Annual Letter is two percent increase per year through 1984.

This would give a 14 percent increase in the seven years of projection, or 266 churches to a total of 1,596 churches reporting by Sept. 30, 1984.

As of Sept. 30, 1977, there were 1,330 of the approximately 1,900 churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Each year a projected increase in participation would be 38 new churches reporting music enrollments.

The 1984 figure would give, without figuring for any increases in the number of churches in the convention, an 84 percent participation rate, or 1,596 churches.

## CM Will Establish New Churches

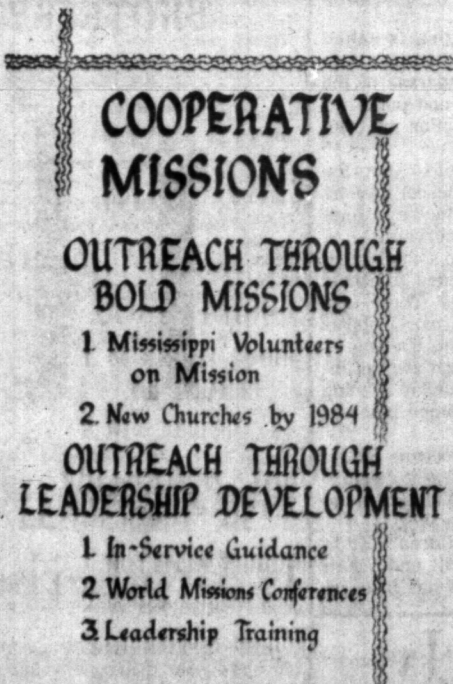
The objective of the Cooperative Missions Department is to assist churches and associations in surveying missions opportunities, discovering new cooperative ventures, and directing the work related to chaplaincy ministries, associational administration, language missions, Christian social ministries, in-service training, interfaith witness, and special mission ministries.

The primary long range goal set by the department is in establishment of new churches. The department provides leadership in this work.

The original goal was for establishing 100 new churches between the years 1976-84. The reaching of this goal is on schedule, with an estimated plus figure of 30.

Current goals for new church establish-

(Continued on page 5)



## Cooperative Missions Will Aid In Coordinating Volunteer Mission Teams

Requests have come to the Department of Cooperative Missions for help from some 30 countries throughout the world. The department has also received a request from the Michigan Baptist Convention for 59 teams or groups from Mississippi to help them establish 59 missions or churches.

Cooperative Missions will aid in coordinating these projects plus others which include regular requests from the Home Mission Board.

Special studies in five fast growing trade centers in the state call for new work to be established quickly.

The goal for the period 1975-84 has been to establish 157 new churches in Mississippi. At this point this goal is being reached.

Help has been given to church-related vocational students in the Baptist colleges for 18 years. A similar emphasis is beginning in the universities.

Also, bi-vocational pastors are being offered some help through special conferences. These will continue in 1979.

World Missions Conferences are scheduled in 15 associations for 1979. Leadership training is a priority for the department next year. It calls for a worker from the department to spend time in every association visiting, listening, and sharing with associational leaders.

Approximately 4,000 people live at

Parchman. Half of these are inmates; the others are employees and their families.

As yet, there is no Baptist chaplain there, and yet more than 60 percent of the inmates are Baptist or have Baptist preferences. The Sunflower Association, is hard at work on a project to provide a ministry for the employees and their families and the prisoners who are confined to the nine

(Continued on page 5)



# Training Planned For 2,000 Deacons, Wives

The Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department will plan in 1979 to prepare 2,000 deacons and their wives to do ministry.

According to department director, Leon Emery, the Bold Mission challenge demands that deacons and their wives be trained. "No other group is responding to training as this one," said Emery.

Through the department's certified training program, "Mississippi is equipped to train them," said Emery.

Another area of work for 1979 will be to challenge 250 youths and adults to a commitment of church related vocations, and to equip 1,500 pastors, other staff, and their spouses to lead, proclaim, and care.

This equipping comes in the form of personal and group leadership and skill training sessions on request from the following groups: pastors, other staff members including secretaries, deacons, church officers, church

## Department Helps Staffs

The objective of the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department is to assist churches and associations in establishing, conducting, and improving the ministry and service of the pastor, church staff (including secretaries), work of weekday early education, church officers, committees and church vocation recruitment and guidance.

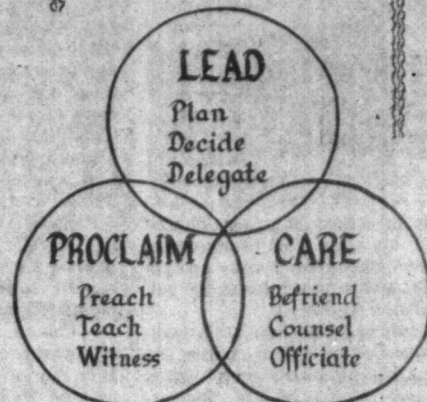
## CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

■ Prepare 2000 Deacons and Their Wives To Do Ministry

■ Challenge 250 Youth and Adults to a Commitment of Church Related Vocations

■ Equip 1500 Pastors, Other Staff, and Spouses to Lead, Proclaim, and Care

## PASTORAL MINISTRIES



# Students To Help GN Mississippi

The Department of Student Work expects to increase the number of students involved in BSU through a pre-school publicity campaign among prospective students.

It will provide personal Christian development and leadership training opportunities for students and directors at local, state, and national conferences and seminars.

Students themselves, with department counsel have voted to raise \$50,000 for Mississippi Student Missions. Linked with this, the department expects to have 75 BSU summer missionaries serving with SBC foreign and home missionaries and in Mississippi.

Plus aid will be given in recruiting 60 students for direct appointment by the Home Mission Board for summer missions.

The Department expects to have 150 students on local campus BSU teams to do mission work in new convention areas and resort ministries anywhere in the USA.

Recruiting 200 students for summer service at Central Hills, Garaywa, Gulfshore, Glorieta, Ridgecrest, and in local churches, is another 1979 goal.

The department will supply at least one witnessing team from each BSU, or a total of 30, for Good News Mississippi next April.

And in 1979, special efforts will be given to keep the Student Centers in good repair and equipment updated so they will be attractive to students and most effective tools for directors.

# Stewardship Wants To Help Increase CP Gifts

(Continued from page 4)

Then, the 1978 project was for an income of \$8,085,283. However, the goal later set for this year was \$8.6 million. And the goal to be recommended to the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 1979 is \$10 million with only \$8.5 million projected from 1975.

Projected increases through 1984 would raise the Cooperative Program income approximately 95 percent. However, actual income rises from 1975-77, with continued acceleration, would raise the income 180 percent by 1984 to over \$16 million. This would double the earlier 10 year projection.

If the churches raise their offerings to the Cooperative Program by a half a percent each year, then the Convention is in a position to increase its giving by a like proportion, according to

John Alexander, department director.

Currently, increases are tagged at a half a percent a year to Southern Baptist Convention causes outside the state of Mississippi. This is projected to rise to 35.91 percent by 1984.

This year the convention is giving an actual 32.41 percent of the Cooperative Program income to SBC causes.

Figuring a half a percent rise per year through 1984, the actual money going to SBC causes would be \$5,853,402.

# Staff Salary Presentations Planned For All Associations

On the basis of a convention-wide survey made this year a committee of lay members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board made the following observations.

1. The ravages of inflation have placed a heavy burden on staff members. In fact, some staff members are existing at the poverty level.

2. Reimbursement for car expenses related to church business is grossly inadequate for staff members in some churches.

3. Many of the churches do not provide sufficient retirement benefits for staff members.

During the coming year a major thrust of the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department will be to provide information and inspiration that will lead churches to adequately increase staff salaries.

An update of the 1978 salary survey will be developed and distributed to the churches for use in preparation of the 1980 budget.

In cooperation with the Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion, the department staff plans to go into every association in The Mississippi Baptist Convention with a presentation on staff salaries.

Some time ago an article described a teenager's "money squeeze." It went like this: "A cat that was cool, dark green, needed bread for a smooch."

He said, "hi fi," as he approached old faithful, his dad, "How about some nice creamy dough — you know let's pick the lettuce."

When asked why he needed money, he said, "I gotta do time with a chick. I need push water for old sputnik. We're crawling out to a smooth spot where they douse the gleam and cut the rug." Not as this teenager described his

predicament, but in understandable terms we want to let our churches know of staff members needs.

A second major thrust the department will make during the year will be in the field of annuity promotion. As has already been stated many churches do not provide sufficient retirement benefits for staff members.

The staff has plans to encourage churches to contribute to each staff member's retirement a sum equal to 10% of his or her total compensation.

Life, medical, and long term disability insurance will be promoted as fringe benefits for staff members.

In addition to the major emphases planned for 1979, the department will continue its regular work of serving churches and ministers through consultation and support.

It is the department's hope that the staff will be able to counsel with 100 pastor search committees.

Plans have been made, in cooperation with the Department of Church Administration and Pastoral Ministries, to provide two conferences on "ministry support" during the year.

All of the work will be directed toward one overall goal: "Encouraging ministers and strengthening churches."

# Student Work Aim: \$600,000

The objective of the Department of Student Work is to assist churches, associations and campus Baptist organizations in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving their programs for college and university students and faculty members, including internationals.

Enlargement goals relative to student work for the next six years include providing \$100,000 per year for the erection of new student centers in Mississippi colleges and universities, and enlarging the existing centers for each of the years 1979-84.

# Stewardship Staff Will Visit Every

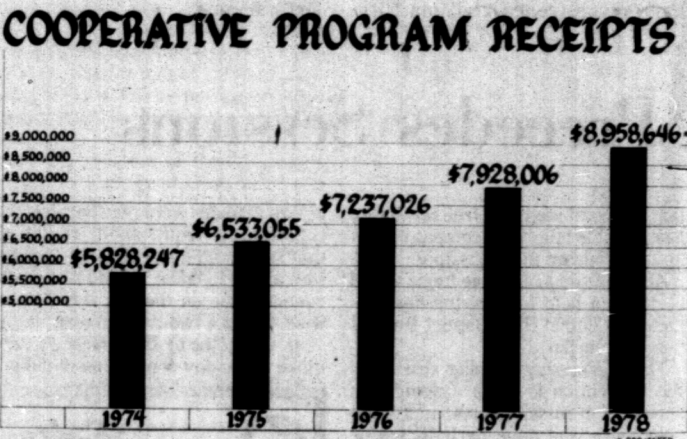
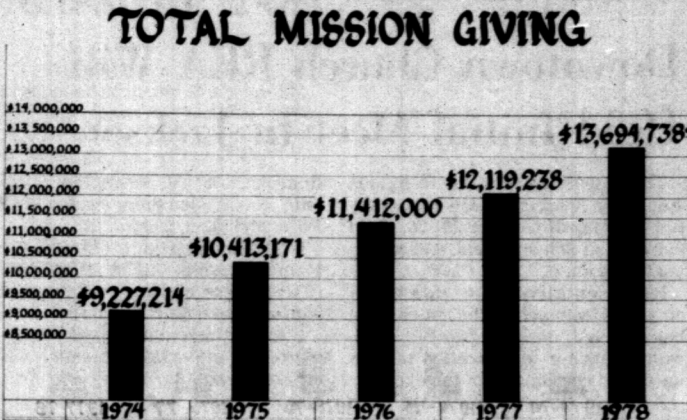
(Continued on page 4)

Mississippi Baptist Convention churches gave to world missions through the Cooperative Program. This is the highest percentage of our churches cooperating in missions in the last 20 years!

During 1979 the department staff will be involved in major fund raising efforts across the state. Increasingly churches are combining their annual budget campaign with an effort to raise additional funds for buildings or for BOLD MISSION THRUST.

Calvary Baptist Church, Pascagoula, set an example for all of our churches this year when it pledged the largest amount ever pledged toward the church budget and additionally pledged over \$100,000 to BOLD MISSIONS.

Whatever the problems or needs of the church relating to finances, the staff of the Stewardship department is trained, experienced, and willing to help.



## CHURCH MINISTER RELATIONS AND ANNUITY

**A Major Thrust on Staff Salaries**

Serve Churches and Ministers Through Consultation and Support

Serve Churches and Ministers Through Annuity Promotion

## STUDENT WORK

**MISSIONS - OUTREACH**

- 75 BSU Summer Missionaries, \$50,000 Goal
- 60 Summer Missionaries, Home Mission Board
- 150 Students, Other Than Summer Missions
- 200 Students for Staffs of Camps, Assemblies, Churches
- 30 Revival Teams for Good News Mississippi

# Cooperative Missions Coordinating Teams

(Continued from page 4)

campes where there are no religious services being conducted.

A careful estimate is that 300 churches in Mississippi are groping with socio-economic changes that are taking place in their communities. The department is committed to offer what assistance it can to these churches through studies, counsel, and conferences.

A ministry to the Chinese continues in Greenwood, Greenville, and the Chinese Church at Cleveland, however, there has been no regular pastor for two years at any of these places. A Chinese minister in Hong Kong might come if it can be worked out.

Plans are almost complete to begin a work among the Indians in Jackson County. Many Indians from many tribes are there working in the shipyards.

It is the prayer of the Cooperative Missions staff that within three years a ministry to the deaf will be within 50 miles of every deaf person in the state.

The work with the Spanish at

# Cooperative Missions

(Continued from page 4)

lishment are set at 12 for 1978, 14 for 1979, 16 for 1980, 18 for 1981, 20 for 1982, 22 for 1983, and 25 for 1984.

This figure totals 127. Add to that the newer estimates of 30 during these years, and the total for newly established churches would be 157.

# Music Opportunities In Mission Outreach

(Continued from page 4)

support the music ministry of the local church for 4,800 persons;

leading all 76 associations to serve their churches through a functional music ministry;

providing opportunities for 500 professional and semi-professional leaders to improve their leadership skills;

leading 600 persons to earn study course awards and 30 persons to earn Church Music Diplomas;

and providing spiritual and musical growth experiences for 900 participants at Gulfshore.

The department plans to give copies of Church Music RFD to all pastors and song leaders in churches under 200 resident membership in the state.

In the area of cooperative ministries, the department will provide information and fellowship opportunities for 150 youths and leaders interested in church music vocations.

And it will provide music and musicians for interdepartmental programs and projects and to denominational institutions as requested.

Under program information and administrative actions, the department plans to provide music information for church leaders of 1,900

churches concerning state, SBC events and emphases.

And it plans to involve 100 leaders from all sections of Mississippi in planning, conducting, and evaluating a statewide music ministry based on the needs of churches.

# Equipping Centers

(Continued from page 3)

exposure to leadership roles in church life.

Goals for the year include a Church Training enrollment increase of 2 percent which would make it rise to 2,547. The department will introduce the Equipping Center materials and concept in late spring and early summer and introduce the "Build-Up" enrollment program.

In leader training, the department plans to enroll 2,000 Church Training leaders in associational, area, and state training events.

Plus the department will attempt to increase by 10 percent participation in special projects such as Baptist Doctrine Study, drills and tournaments, "Five Star" churches and associations, and Youth Week.

# Brotherhood Priority Is Enlargement

(Continued from page 3)

duras and Barbados. Certainly this year will see more than 1,000 Mississippi Baptists involved in participation mission.

Also the scope of Royal Ambassador Camping will be enlarged. June 1, 1979 will begin a new era for Royal Ambassador camping in Mississippi.

On that day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat is scheduled to be completed. The days of the dependency on other groups for facilities will end and the boys of our state can once again look to a permanent home for our camping program.

This new facility will permit the Brotherhood Department to expand the camping program to offer activities with tremendous boy-appeal; horseback riding, sailing, canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, competitive sports, are some examples.

More important is the atmosphere that will surround a boy at Central Hills, one of Christian fellowship, education, and inspiration. Central Hills will be a great asset to Mississippi Baptist for many boys will make their initial commitment to follow Christ while others, will renew and strengthen their commitment to Him, during Roy Ambassador Camp.

# Good News Mississippi

(Continued from page 4)

Youth Witness Training (WOW) is a very vital part of the preparation as it is reaching an increasing number of our High School students. All of these types of witness training are available for leadership and coordination from the evangelism department.

Good News Mississippi is already on the move as our churches are responding triumphantly to the challenge.

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# Morgantown, Natchez, Will Dedicate Sanctuary, Organ In 4-Day Program



Morgantown Church, Natchez, will observe "A Time of Dedication" Nov. 19-22, to dedicate a new sanctuary-office complex and an Allen organ.

The new building is a contemporary structure which consists of a 650 seat auditorium, four offices, a workroom, and a choir room. In the sanctuary attention is drawn upward to the unusual, natural-wood ceiling. The pulpit-choir-baptistry area is located in one of the corners of the square building

with four sections of pews gathered around this area. This arrangement allows for maximum seating and yet provides a closeness between the pulpit and all the pews.

"A Time of Dedication" will be divided into five parts. Part I will be the building dedication service on Sunday, November 19, at 10:50 a.m. The service will feature Jerry Lee, Richard Pass, Talmadge Smith, and Mike Carter. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

The organ dedication/recital, Part II, will be Sunday, Nov. 19, at 1:30 p.m. This service will feature Paul Andersen, organist, the new Allen organ, and the Sanctuary Choir. Andersen is professor of music at the University of Southern Mississippi, and state chairman of the American Guild of Organists, and vice-president of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association. A reception and open house will follow the organ service.

Parts III, IV, and V are special evening services featuring former staff members of the church and will be held November 20-22 at 7 p.m. Monday night will feature Charles Holifield, Roy Collum, and Floyd Grice. Arnold Norsworthy and Billy Ray Miller will have charge of the service on Tuesday evening. Wednesday night will feature W. J. Hughes, Jerry Breazeale, and J. B. Betts.

Mike Carter is minister of music and youth. Talmadge Smith is pastor.

## Brotherhood Responds To Merger Proposal, Names Committee

(Continued from page 1)

the committee to share its findings with the full Brotherhood Commission before releasing the findings elsewhere.

In discussion prior to adopting the motion, trustees urged the study committee to include laymen in a proposed survey to discover Baptist attitudes and opinions toward the proposal.

"I strongly urge you to get input from lay persons to this study — they are the ones most directly affected," said Harold Coday of Springfield, Mo.

The proposal to merge the two agencies was made by George Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Executive Committee referred it to a joint committee from the two agencies, asking for study and a report

to the Executive Committee in February.

In other action, the trustees elected a new slate of officers and paid tribute to their late executive director in their first meeting since McCullough's death in a Memphis traffic accident, Aug. 23.

In memory of his leadership as executive director of the missions agency for men and boys from 1971-78, the trustees voted to begin construction of a training center at the Memphis office and to name it the Glendon McCullough Conference Center.

Trustees also unveiled a portrait of McCullough to hang in the center, adopted a resolution in memory and tribute to his contribution, and established an endowment fund to finance scholarships to enable needy persons to receive training at the new center.

A five-member search committee to

nominate a new executive director was elected from the floor by the 36-member commission, which named its outgoing chairman, William E. Hardy Jr., minister of education, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss., to head the search. Other members are Lee Prince, Memphis, Tenn., pastor; Carl Voda, Alexandria, La., electronics firm president; Jack Deligans, mechanical engineer, Livermore, Calif., and Jack Knox, moving van company president, Germantown, Tenn.

The trustees elected Deligans mechanical engineer at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, to succeed Hardy as commission chairman. Deligans also directs Brotherhood work for East Bay Baptist Association in the Oakland area.

Trustees gave a standing ovation and voted to send letters of appreciation for the work of Hardy, the outgoing chairman, to his church and his wife. Everet Lemay, Albion, Ill., praised Hardy for the amount of time he has spent in helping the interim work of the agency since the death of McCullough. Hardy has also served on the joint committee studying the merger.

## January Bible Study Previews Set Next Week

Stuart Arnold and J. William Thompson will teach January Bible study previews, Nov. 20, 21, and 22.

Churches will be First Church, McComb, Nov. 20; Forest Church, Columbus, Nov. 21; and at First Church, Columbus, on Nov. 22. Each day's meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and close at 3 p.m.

Adults in January will study Mark: The Savior for Sinners and youths will study Christ: Style for Discipleship.

The preview study of Mark is for pastors who will be teaching January Bible Study in their churches.

Arnold, a native of England, is on the

staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn.

The youth study is for those who will be teaching youth January Bible Study in their churches.

Thompson is editor of youth materials, Sunday School department, Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Lunch will be served at each of the churches where the Bible study previews are to be held. The cost is \$3. Reservations are required.

The studies are sponsored by the Mississippi Sunday School Department, Bryant Cummings, director.

## Plumbers, Electricians Go On Ecuador Mission



Jake Williams, pastor, and Alfred Ford, deacon of Center Grove Church, near Meridian, have returned from Ecuador, where they did carpentry and electrical work in a church and a missionary home. They went with five other Mississippians to Coca, where Dot and James P. Gilbert are missionaries.

Serving at First Baptist Church, Coca, Ecuador, were, above, left to right: Dot Gilbert, missionary; Sonny Balaskai, Union Church, Clarke County; Corrine Irby, Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County; Jake Williams, playing the guitar; Alfred Ford; Earl Callahan, missionary, Union Church, Clarke County; Gareth Joiner, missionary. Not shown, Vardaman Ivey of East Pleasant Grove Church, Clarke County, and Ralph Irby, Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County.

The group stayed two weeks in Ecuador. James Gilbert, the missionary they assisted, is a former pastor of Rolling Creek and Montrose Churches in Clarke County. The men did finish work on the missionary home and electrical work and plumbing for the church.



The minister of music at First Baptist Church, Coca, Ecuador, is a native of Coca. The guitar is the church's only musical instrument. Though they own no hymnals, the people do not let that keep them from singing.



The congregation at worship in First Baptist Church, Ecuador. The church has no windows; the people have few Bibles, but the missionary, James Gilbert, said, "These people have a wonderful Christian spirit and they win people to the Lord every day."



Mrs. O. M. Jones, left, of Memphis, formerly of Jackson, led a conference on "Concept of Church Library" during the seventh annual Mississippi Baptist Library Organization Workshop Nov. 3-4 at Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. Kathryn Jones, right, Mendenhall, was re-elected historian of the organization. Other officers for 1979-80 are Margaret Lewis, Columbus, president; Patricia Robinson, Cleveland, vice-president; Mildred Day, McComb, secretary-treasurer; Millie Wood, Louisville, program chairman; Anne McWilliams, Baptist Record, publicity chairman; Bryant Cummings, Sunday School Department, and Frances Bush, Columbia, ex officio.



Wilda Fancher, left, who led the devotionals at the beginning of each session of the workshop, was honored at an autograph party. She is author of two Broadman books, *The Christian Woman in the Christian Home* and *I Have Heard the Rainbow*.

Larry Salter, consultant, Sunday School Department, directed the workshop. The banquet feature was "The Total Woman Course" taught by Eleanor Goode of Oxford. Copies of *How Beautiful the Feet*, autobiography of Florence Powell Harris of Clinton, missionary emerita, were presented as gifts from Mrs. Harris to the church libraries represented.

## Librarians Meet at Ridgecrest

## Board Reports Show Evangelism

(Continued from page 1)

end of the century. On the way to accomplishing this task the hope is to provide a witness to everyone in the United States by 1982 and to provide a New Testament fellowship for everyone by the same time.

To implement these goals will require doubling the number of career missionaries that are now serving and doubling the Cooperative Program gifts by 1982 and doubling them again by the end of the century.

To help in implementation of Bold Mission Thrust a concept of volunteer

missionaries was adopted whereby those who could pay their own expenses, or find someone who would, would donate their time to go anywhere in the world to witness. For periods of year or more, the volunteer program is called Mission Service Corps. Shorter period workers may serve in a number of ways.

Bold Mission Thrust is under way. This was to be the burden of the Tuesday evening session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the material that is to be found on Pages 3, and 4, had agreed. In a suit in September of

(Continued from page 4)

one to 32.59; 1982: 638,064 with 21,220 baptisms at one to 30.06; 1983: 645,555 with 23,449 baptisms at one to 27.53;

And the final year of the projections, 1984, should reach a total of 653,046 Mississippi Baptist church members with 26,121 baptisms at a baptism ratio of one baptism per 25 church members.

## Sunday School Goals . . .

(Continued from page 3)

cent, or 10,584, to total 363,384. 1980's gain, and the four years after that, too, would be two percent, according to predictions. The 1980 gain would be 7,268 or a total enrollment of 370,652.

1981 would yield 7,413 new Sunday School enrollees, to total 378,065. 1982 would give 7,561 new members, totaling 385,626.

1983 would make 7,713 totaling 393,339. And the year 1984, if projections hold true, would yield 7,867 new enrollees, totaling 401,206.

For knowledge, too, is itself a power. — Bacon.

## Downtown Church REA Will Hold Initial Meet In Jackson

The Downtown Church Religious Education Association will hold its initial meeting November 27, 28, 29 in Jackson, at Sun and Sand, and at Calvary Church.

Representatives of downtown churches from across the nation have been invited, according to Bill McIlwain, minister of education at Calvary, and coordinator of the event.

A random survey was made of those who might be interested in such a convention-wide organization. Responses have come from Oklahoma City;

Roanoke, Va.; St. Louis, Mo.; Charlotte, N. C.; Memphis; Nashville; El Paso, and other large cities.

In this first meeting policies relative to membership will be established, first officers elected, and other organizational details discussed.

Each representative will bring a packet of materials, to share with others what has been going on in his/her church and city. There is no preplanned agenda. Those present in the first session will plan the agenda, McIlwain said.

## Board Meet Precedes Sessions

(Continued from page 1)

partment of Student Work to succeed Ralph Winters when he retires June 1, 1979. Merriman has been associate director in the department since Aug. 10, 1975. Before he was Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi State University for 6 years.

During the Convention Board meeting the board members approved a major financial campaign for Clarke College in 1980 upon the recommendation of the Education Commission. The authorized goal was established at \$1,250,000 with \$500,000 to go toward endowment and operation and \$750,000 to go toward capital improvements.

Also major financial campaigns were approved for Blue Mountain College in 1981, for Mississippi College in 1982, and for William Carey College in 1983. The board members asked that the purposes and the amounts would be brought back before the board before these campaigns are launched. Also, the colleges were instructed not to focus on church budgets in their campaigns but rather to aim their efforts toward individuals, foundations, and like interests. Churches, of course, are free to take whatever actions they desire concerning the campaigns.

**Budget Average**  
Kelly pointed out that indications are that Cooperative Program gifts will exceed the budget for 1978, and the board adopted a formula for the use of the overage if it materializes. Christian Education would receive 18 percent, 32 percent would go to Southern Baptist Convention causes, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention would get the remaining 50 percent.

From the 50 percent, according to the amount received, \$15,000 would go for a mobile chapel, \$3,000 for go for satellite transmission of a session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston next June; \$16,500 would go for special church growth projects all across the state, and \$10,000 would go for promotion of the Good News Mississippi campaign next April.

The mobile chapel would be for Magnolia Street Church in Laurel, which is attempting to get a satellite church under way. Since the new church expansion funds would not cover this, the special funding was provided.

On Wednesday evening of the Southern Baptist Convention the hope is to link nine cities all across the South with the convention by satellite. One of the cities is Jackson. The \$3,000 is to be matched by Hinds-Madison Associa-

tion and combined with free service by a local cable television company to set up the program in Mississippi.

Any additional overage funds would be used to help finance the development of Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko.

The Wednesday evening session of the convention is to be a dedication service for missionaries, including volunteers who have participated or will participate in Bold Mission Thrust.

Kelly announced that the attorney for the insurance firm handling the claim resulting from the fire in September of 1976 at Gulfshore had offered to settle out of court for \$150,000, and the Convention Board attorneys had agreed. In a suite in September of this year the court had awarded \$158,000 to the Convention Board. A subsequent appeal by the insurance firm to a higher court had been denied, but the firm had the option of appealing to the Supreme Court. The Convention Board attorneys advised the settlement rather than facing the expense of the appeal.

The original suit cost about \$28,000, so that figure would need to be deducted from the settlement, Kelly said. The Board had sued for \$200,000, but the fire had cost that much additional in the restoration of Gulfshore because of the loss of a usable structure. The insurance firm had wanted to pay \$40,000, claiming that was all that the existing structure was worth.

**Bid Opening**  
During the board meeting Levon Moore, chairman of the Central Hills Development Committee, reported that bids would be opened on the swimming pool this week. He said roads and the sewage lagoon are complete, and a contract on the electrical work would likely be awarded this week.

The board awarded pastoral aid in the amount of \$1,200 for the year to seven churches and \$1,800 to one. Building aid was awarded to four churches in the total amount of \$7,000.

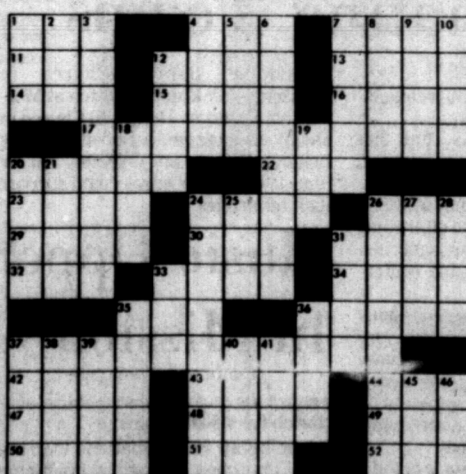
During the Executive Committee meeting a loan from Deposit Guaranty National Bank was approved for \$187,000 for the construction of the Baptist Student Center at Delta State University, and \$2,500 was awarded New Hope Church in Bolivar Association because of a fire in September.

During the convention session that was a part of the Brotherhood Rally, proposed convention constitution and

by-law changes were read because of a constitution requirement requiring that such reading be done the day before a vote is taken, and that the vote cannot come on the last day. Otherwise, it was a two-day convention this year. One of the by-law changes was to make a two-day convention possible.

### Bible Puzzle

Bible Puzzles  
Box 485  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87103



51 Golfer's mound  
52 Member of congress: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Snake
- 2 "shall — in your sins" (John 8)
- 3 "and the blood" (Lev. 1)
- 4 Forfeit
- 5 Tribe (Luke 2:36)
- 6 "part of —" (Acts 5)
- 7 Country (Rom. 15:24)
- 8 Wheel parts
- 9 Butter substitute
- 10 Secluded valley
- 12 "rebuked the —" (Luke 8)
- 18 Bird's home
- 19 Groove
- 20 In all of Egypt (Ex. 8:16)
- 21 Party to: 2 words
- 24 "the crooked shall be made —" (Luke 3)
- 25 Menu item
- 26 "wipe away —" (Rev. 7)
- 27 Barrow
- 28 Milkfish: pl.
- 31 Judge's bench
- 33 In favor of
- 35 Biblical people (Isa. 13:17)
- 36 Unwelcome picnic guests
- 37 Enoch's son (Gen. 4:18)
- 38 Negative reply: slang
- 39 Fastener
- 40 Biblical pronoun
- 41 Swiss river
- 45 Direction to a horse
- 46 Edition: abbr.

ACROSS

- 1 Paid notices
- 4 "I will destroy the —" (Ezek. 34)
- 7 Proceed, doggedly
- 11 Small taste
- 12 "that — me evil" (Psa. 49)
- 13 "— out the mote" (Luke 6)
- 14 Before time-or feet
- 15 Arrow poisons
- 16 Man (1 Sam. 23:11)
- 17 "into the —" (Acts 16)
- 20 Padded
- 22 "Ye did — well" (Gal. 5)
- 23 India, and others
- 24 Revolving rod for cooking meat
- 26 Candlenut

- 29 Animal (Luke 19:30)
- 30 Twitch
- 31 "God shall — the trumpet" (Zech. 9)
- 32 Compass reading: abbr.
- 33 "neither bond nor —" (Gal. 3)
- 34 — California
- 35 Extinct bird
- 36 Produces
- 37 "the — of the saints" (Col. 1)
- 42 Highway
- 43 Mountain pass
- 44 "He is of —" (John 9)
- 47 Church part
- 48 Not his
- 49 Color
- 50 Deposits: abbr.

CRYPTOVERSE

QLX BPCE KV PF OR VKEX K AKBB  
FPQ DXGC

Today's Cryptoverse clue: Q equals T

(Answers on Page 7)



# "In the Midst Redeeming"

(Continued from page 1)

Greek: at the kind of place where cynics talk sweet, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about and that is where churchmen should be and what churchmanship should be about."

I am convinced that men still take up their beds and walk on hearing the words, "Your sins are forgiven." In our churches we are not only to declare God's readiness to forgive but also to show forgiveness to an erring member, "forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

In old Delhi, India, at the entrance of Lott Carey Baptist Mission is the sign: "Lott Carey Baptist Mission — Trespassers Will Be Forgiven." That is the message people need to hear. For this is the glorious message of our gospel, that, because of Christ's sacrifice for us, trespassers will be forgiven. God will forgive us and we must forgive others. If the world is to understand this truth the churches must become witnessing churches.

## 5. The Early Church Had a Deep Concern for People.

It not only welcomed back anyone who had done wrong; it also went out after those who had wandered from the truth. To save a sinner from his erroneous ways was to "hide a multitude of sins." Are we really doing anything about bringing the 150,000 inactive white Baptists in our state back into the church? Every church knows of people who are outside its fellowship. We must put forth effort to win them to faith. Our permanent business is evangelism.

A recent survey reveals there are 974,797 people in Mississippi who are unsaved, and 541,325 who are unfiliated with any church. The vast numbers of unreached among us led a Buddhist to suggest that contemporary Christianity is like an adolescent child who is "slightly ashamed of his father and embarrassed when talking about him."

We must develop such concern for people outside the fellowship of Christ that we get back on the main track of evangelism. That we should baptize only 13,949 people in 1977-78 when there are nearly one million lost people in our midst reveals a lack of compassionate identification for which we shall have to answer to God. If every Baptist pastor in the state were to win and baptize only one person a month next year we would break all baptism records. Leaders must begin the movement by showing their laymen how. The church must become a laboratory of evangelism.

On the Gothic archway above the preacher's head in the Abbey of Iona Benedictine Monks centuries ago carved the face of a man in great torment. The eyes are sightless, the mouth gapes open, filled by a parched and swollen tongue, and on the face is clearly seen the agony of the alienated. Sunday by Sunday the preacher is reminded of the condition of the world to which he must bring the gospel. This must ever be our situation — to keep before us with genuine and compassionate concern a world that is battered and baffled — a world that has lost its way. The church needs to be a concerned church.

How is it with your church? Have we taught singing, healing, praying, pardoning, and concern? Even more vital is the question, "Are we experiencing these?" Let's go home and check our programs, our activities, to see if we are on the fringes condemning or in the midst redeeming. Then let's get to work and show the whole world that "we are out to change the world."

Recently while looking down from the leaning edge of the Tower of Pisa, Italy, my mind plunged four centuries back into history. Galileo had preceded my visit to Pisa by about 400 years, and the setting reminded me of a story about him.

Galileo heard idle rumors about a Dutchman who had invented an instrument with adjustable lenses which magnified objects several times their original size. Although Galileo laid this information to foolish rumor, he ordered an assortment of concave and convex lenses and a collection of cardboard tubes with which to experiment. Having used the lenses in a hundred different combinations, and having worn out a large number of tubes, the great scientist had merely succeeded in getting nothing more than a rather dim look at his surroundings.

One day in July, 1609, Galileo has in his hands a tube that is of equal diameter from end to end, and has at one end a plano-convex and at the other a plano-concave lens. He rises from his

chair and something seems to urge him to gaze through the window at the dome of St. Anthony's Church.

What is this excessively prominent object? He stiffens. Why it must be a part of the dome of St. Anthony's! He lays the tube down carefully and glances at the dome. Then he looks again with the tube. It seems about five times as big through the tube. He sees the smallest details invisible to the naked eye.

He is so excited that he has to put the tube down to rest. He presses his hand over his heart as though afraid of some shock. Then he starts spying out amazing details all over again. Suddenly he begins to shout: "Who's at home? Count Scultzi? Salvatia! Hurry!"

Students, sensing something of the excitement from the voice, pour into the room. They are greeted by Galileo shouting like one possessed, "I've got it! I've got it! Send everyone here! Let the whole world come in and look!"

Man seems to have a built-in drive which makes him want to rush out and share an exciting discovery with the whole world. When the healing of the cripple at the Beautiful Gate occurred, Peter and John exclaimed, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

They were under the grip of an excitement which drove them to speak. They gave way to the impulse that was ringing in their inner ear: "Speak, speak! Do tell the whole world!"

## Singing Churchmen Plan Mission Tour To Spain

A mission tour of Southern Spain is being planned by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen during May of next year, according to Dan Hall, director of the singing group and of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The invitation came from the Foreign Mission Board and the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain. The group will leave the United States on May 14 and return May 29. Negotiations have been developing for about a year, Hall said.

The group plans for half of its repertoire to be in Spanish. During eight or nine days in Spain there are plans for concerts in Madrid, Andalucia, Malaga, Granada, Seville, and Cordoba. They are planned for churches, city auditoriums, and on college campuses. Mission board officials indicated that in Spain music could open many doors for further work, Hall declared.

At the request of the Mississippi group the Foreign Mission Board singled out Spain as being the mission area where the need for such a witness is greatest. There are several Mississippians stationed in Spain as missionaries.

Travel in that country will be by chartered bus.

When it leaves the U.S. the group will fly to Ruschlikon in Switzerland to visit the seminary for two or three days to sing and overcome the jet lag.

Then the singers will move to Paris for a couple of days before flying to Spain for the concert and witnessing tour.

Hall said that indications are that \$1,500 will be needed for each person making the trip. He said the hope is for at least 30 singers. Wives will be permitted to make the trip if they desire.

The cost estimate is based on an air fare of \$1,100 plus land travel in Spain and two meals per day, Hall said.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was a visitor in Spain recently. Regarding the pending witnessing tour by the Singing Churchmen, Kelly said:

"Recently I spent two days with the Errol Simmons in Spain. He and the other missionaries are excited about the possibilities of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen's visit. Spain has been a closed door to large-scale witnessing until recently. In a country that needs Christian witness so badly there could be no better way to assist our missionaries than to provide a great music witness. I hope churches will realize this is an opportunity for them to become personally involved by paying the travel expenses of the Ministers of Music for this mission tour."

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen is an organization made up of ministers of music in Mississippi Baptist churches.



## Teacher Honored

Boston Criswell, who has taught the Fishers of Men Sunday School Class at First Church, Jackson, for 20 years, was honored recently as he retired from that position. He described his decision to step aside from teaching as "taking a sabbatical." A reception in his honor was held Oct. 18 at Northgate Restaurant in Jackson, and he was presented a plaque. Criswell is a lifetime deacon at First Church and is a representative for New York Life Insurance Company.

Mrs. L. Parkes Marler, missionary to Guam, will speak at First Church, Ridgeland, at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, Nov. 19. Mrs. Marler, nee Martha Ellen Townsend, a native of Harpersville, Miss., is a graduate of Mississippi College, and of New Orleans Seminary. She and her husband were appointed as missionaries in 1955. They served in Korea and transferred to Guam. The pastor of First, Ridgeland is W. Everett Martain.



Then the singers will move to Paris for a couple of days before flying to Spain for the concert and witnessing tour.

**BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS**

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S	I	P	W	I	S	H		P	U	L	L
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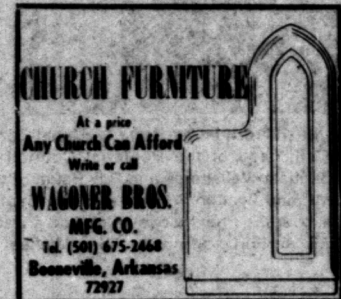
Radio station WJFR-FM in Jackson will be broadcasting portions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention proceedings.

It taped the Tuesday afternoon session and will play it Saturday evening, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m.

The Wednesday morning session with Jimmy Allen's message, will be broadcast Thursday evening Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. And the Wednesday evening session was broadcast live.

## Revival Dates

Gillsburg Church: Youth Revival: Nov. 22-26; Al Fike, Leakesville, and New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Al Bohl, Bossier City, La., music evangelist; Melinda Brumfield, pianist; Mrs. Hilda Blount, organist; Joseph L. Smith, pastor.



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## We Missed You Senior Adults At Glorieta's Aspen Bible Conference

By Eunice J. Campbell, Vicksburg  
The Aspen Bible Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center is one of the most delightful opportunities offered by Southern Baptists for Senior Adults. If you are age 54 or above and have not attended one of these conferences you fall into the category of deprived persons.

On October 3 my son and his wife whom I had visited in Dallas, took me to Denton to join my friend, Dorothy Booth from Vicksburg, for a tour that took us to Glorieta by way of the Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings and on to Durango, Colo., where we holed in for two nights. Next day we were early to catch the Narrow Gauge Silverton train.

If you are a railroad buff or an admirer of spectacular scenery you should have been with us. After winding in and out of gorge after beautiful gorge we reached the old silver mining town of Silverton.

We followed the crowd to the cafeteria where we had a most delicious lunch. While we ate we were entertained by a woman at the rinky dink piano. Dressed in the fashion of 1860 she played all the old favorites. I wished someone had picked up the words and led us in singing "Daisy, Daisy, give me your promise true." As Dorothy approached within camera shot the pianist said, "I'll smile if you'll smile, dearie."

I tried to imagine the life of the people who had lived in the corrugated tin houses now rusted and empty.

The young attendant at our motel had spent last summer at Biloxi. His home was in Tucson, Arizona. In the stores in Durango I shopped for a pair of gloves to keep my hands from freezing. As the train makes its last run of the season, the hunting and fishing season begins and many hands are

needed to take care of the crowds.

After breakfast in our room the second day, we departed Durango for the Aztec Ruins. When we approached the desk in the main building to begin our tour the nice young man attendant said, "Anyone here over 62?" I was glad to pull out my Golden Age Passport that admits me free to any National Park System administered by the National Park Service. It also admits, free, anyone with me.

In order to get a few extra hours of rest and enjoy the beauty of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, we arrived just after noon at Stone Lake Lodge "Twenty miles from Nowhere," to claim our reserved room (corner fireplace too) overlooking the lake. The wind had risen and many little boats were tossing just a bit among the tiny white caps on the sparkling water. A fisherman in a camper with boat carrier attached, informed me they were fishing for rainbow trout.

At supper an Indian woman detached herself from the three-generation family with whom she was dining and came to our table to welcome us to Stone Lake Lodge. "It belongs to us, you know," she said proudly.

"All this and Glorieta too," I thought, as we made our way from Highway 84 to lunch at Espanola, bypass Santa Fe, and arrived at Glorieta in early afternoon.

It is always a joy to hear Dr. Donald Ackland teach from the Old Testament (Nehemiah) and Dr. Ralph Murray teach from the New Testament (Philippians). An added joy this year was Dr. Winston Pearce who brought an inspiring message each morning just before we were dismissed for lunch. I remembered Dr. Pearce pleasantly from the Writers' Conference I attended at Glorieta a dozen years ago. I

also greatly enjoyed the pastor from Lamesa, Texas, who led the singing part of the time and sang some solos. His obvious commitment and quality of voice did much to add to my worship experience.

We did miss all of you Mississippians except two from Purvis and four of us from Vicksburg. You missed a great blessing.

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## Baptist Minister In Honduras Aids U. S. Disaster Relief Effort



U.S. Army Maj. Hardy E. Batchelor of the 193rd Infantry Brigade, Canal Zone; Honduran army Maj. Wilfred Levy McCall, head of the Regional Council of Emergency for Gracias a Dios province; Santiago Vallabares and Ray Baum of the U.S. Agency for International Development; and Landon Wilkerson of the Baptist Mission in Puerto Lempira, Honduras, talk over their next move in loading a water purification trailer onto a shrimp boat. (U.S. Air Force photos by TSgt. Michael V. Longfellow)

By SSgt. Bill Welch

**PUERTO LEMPIRA, Honduras** — Scattered in small villages or communities that dot a strip of land from Barra Patuca to Cabo de Gracias a Dios, the people of the Mosquitia region live in virtual isolation along the east coast of Honduras.

There are few roads in this low, swampy, palm and pine covered grassy land, and the only way to get from one place to another is either by boat or walking, often a combination of both.

Numbering about 7,000 people, the natives make their living by fishing, growing rice and coconuts and raising a few cows, chickens and goats.

Before Hurricane Greta swept along this strip of land Sept. 17-18 with winds gusting from 115-150 miles per hour, they lived in thatched-roof wooden buildings or lean-tos. Greta left them without food, clothing or shelter.

The storm blew down many of their homes, polluted their wells with salt water and destroyed much of their coconut and rice crops. No deaths

were reported, although some injuries were sustained.

Experiencing his fourth hurricane in the 12 years he has been in Puerto Lempira was Landon Wilkerson who heads the Baptist Mission in Honduras. During the storm, he and his family huddled with several of their neighbors in the living room of his home on Caratasca Lagoon.

More than 37,000 pounds of food were delivered by the Honduras air force helicopters.

Disaster relief supplies were airlifted Sept. 24-25 by elements of the U.S. Air Force's Southern Air Division (Tactical Air Command), Howard AFB, Canal Zone, to Puerto Lempira.

More than 100,000 pounds of supplies from USAID and military stockpiles maintained in the Panama Canal Zone by the U.S. Army's 193rd Infantry Brigade were airlifted. These consisted of cots, sheets, tents, water and gas cans, water purification chemicals and plants, generators and pumps.

Accompanying the first plane-load of supplies was a 13-member disaster assistance team made up of U.S. Air Force and Army members stationed in the Canal Zone.

Wilkerson invited members of the team to his home for either lunch or dinner each day and offered places for them to sleep. His wife, Pat, who operates a small clinic, provided medicine to a team member who became ill.

One of the ways the Honduran officials learned of what was needed by the people in the outlying areas was through reports received by Wilkerson, from the various members of the churches he helped to establish in the small communities. As these reports came in, he would tactfully advise the officials. Some 23 churches have been started by Wilkerson in Gracias a Dios province.

A major effort of the team was to get a water purification plant to Barra Patuca, a settlement of some 2,000 people. Through Wilkerson's ability to speak Spanish, Mosquito and English and his knowledge of the local area, the people and the resources available, he helped arrange for the transportation of the water purification unit to Barra Patuca.

Built into a trailer, the plant, weighing 2.5 tons, was hauled several miles to Caratasca Lagoon, where it was loaded onto a shrimp boat, "La Mosquitia," and taken to Barra Patuca.

The Wilkersons are supported by the First Baptist Church of Apopka, Fla.; the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, Miss.; the Ninth and 0 Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.; the First Baptist Church of Monticello, Ky.; and by a group of Baptist churches in the hills of West Virginia.

## W. C. Gann In Hospital After Stroke

W. C. Gann, of Corinth, director of missions, Tishomingo County, suffered a stroke on Friday night, Nov. 3, and was taken to the Baptist Hospital in Memphis on Saturday, Nov. 4.

On Thursday, November 9, he was steadily improving and had his first session in therapy, Mrs. Gann said. However, his left arm and left leg were still affected. Tests were still to be made to determine if he would have to undergo surgery. His speech was almost back to normal.

He is in Room 1096, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis.

## Leake Adds New Church

The Leake County Association now has 35 churches.

The Association in its annual session on October 19, voted unanimously to accept the application for membership made earlier this year by the Emmanuel Church of Walnut Grove.

Emmanuel, now meeting in a temporary location, has begun construction of a new building on the west side of Walnut Grove on Highway 35. Percy Cooper is interim pastor.

Judge O. H. Barnett, Moderator of the Association, due to illness, was unable to serve. Dewey Moore, Vice Moderator, presided. W. C. Smith is director of missions.

Inspiration and genius — one and the same. — Victor Hugo



Barra Patuca, Honduras, turns into a tent city following the delivery of tents, cots, sheets and a water purification trailer. The people will use the tents as shelter until they can rebuild their homes destroyed by Hurricane Greta, Sept. 17-18. Other villages in Gracias a Dios were also destroyed, including the Baptist churches in them.

## Saving Hope

By Jimmy G. McGee, Pastor, East McCamb

In Romans 8:24 we read, "For we are saved by hope." Most people in the experience of life encounter conflict, suffering, and anxiety. Some face more than others. We attempt to comfort one another with the statement, "where there is life, there is hope." Actually, the more correct Bible position is, "Where there is hope, there is life!" For hope is our salvation.

Biblical hope combines personal faith with divine promise, and thereby fixes genuine assurance. "We are saved by hope." The salvation of this hope is foremost the eternal salvation of God which grants the forgiveness of sin, the renewing of life, and the forever guarantee of life in the heaven lies with God. This hope is the summation of God's fulfilled promise in Christ for us, to wit — Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and our possession of this hope in believing faith.

There is also the very definite suggestion in Paul's statement that our daily salvation — from fear and anxiety — is secured in genuine hope. Regardless of the pressures of the day, the man of believing hope possesses a glimpse of victory and lives unthreatened by the cares of the day.

The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge cost \$75,000,000. In construction of the first phase, 23 men fell to their death. A safety net costing approximately \$100,000 was added. Work then went on at a pace of 15% to 25% faster and no more than 10 men fell unharmed to the net. Relieved of the fear of falling and consequential death, fewer persons fell and work moved with efficiency. Genuine hope is like that: it releases our tensions and frees us to live in efficiency and abundance.

Let's be sure to discriminate between wishful thinking and Christian hope. Many do-gooders suggest hope when it really is but wishful thinking. Christian hope is the gift of God to all who give themselves to divine care in personal trust and commitment.

The Psalmist declares this grand hope and describes its effect upon the life and disposition of the believer when he confirmed in Psalm 23, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

He was fully alive (walking). He was constantly facing struggle (shadows), and the end was physical death. Yet, he was unafraid. The reason is clearly stated. God was with him, and he was not only going into the experience, he was confident that he was going through the experience.

You can stand the meanness of earth's crucible if you know you are going through it! I remember my first trip through the Bankhead Tunnel at Mobile. I was a small child, and when we drove into the earth that day I was terribly frightened. How was I to know we would come out on the other side? Only when the sunlight dawned on the other side did my fright subside. Now I enter that tunnel in calm because I know that I am going through.

The hope that saves is the faith in God which assures one that he is going through. Fix your mind on things eternal; believe the promises of God; and meet life's challenge with faith's expectation.

## Controversial IRS Rule Gains Public Hearing

WASHINGTON (BP) — Responding to pressure brought by the religious community, the Internal Revenue Service will hold a public hearing on a controversial proposed rule requiring certain religious schools to prove they do not engage in racial discrimination in their admissions policies or face the loss of tax exemption.

IRS Commissioner Jerome Kurtz announced the Dec. 5 hearing two months after original notice of the proposed revenue ruling was issued in the Federal Register. The IRS decision came in the wake of pressure by a

number of religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In a written statement to IRS, James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Washington-based Baptist agency, declared that although his organization would "normally . . . commend well-intentioned efforts by government to eliminate racial segregation in education," application of the proposed rules "would be a direct affront to the religion clauses of the First Amendment."

of someone else, or another's possession, that is the danger moment. Unfortunately, this hour cannot be known by others as it is hidden in secret. This is part of the terrible nature of this sin.

Covetousness then carries with it self-interest and greed. The desire to have what is forbidden will undermine the best life. Outwardly a life could be respectful and appear good and upright, but inwardly it might be full of this dry-rot eating away the fiber of moral strength and will. It is not seen in its manifestation immediately. Slowly and surely, where it is nursed by desire and lust, the deterioration proceeds with its corrupting force and power.

What we think of another man is important. To think and believe the best is the way to offset the temptation to lying. A man's character is the engraving of what a man is. Reputation

is what others think of him. The reputation should be dependent upon character. That this is not done is due to the fact that men have distorted ideas of success and the shallow views concerning sin. Here is the crux of the matter. Let a life be estimated upon character and then bearing false witness is refuted. Our Lord is the truth, and in his light we must see light concerning others.

### Conclusion

"I will place no value on anything that I have or possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance that kingdom, it shall be given or kept, as by giving or keeping it I shall best promote the glory of him to whom I owe all my hopes, both for time and eternity" (David Livingston, pioneer missionary to Africa).

## Uniform Lesson

### Setting Life's Priorities

By Jackie C. Hamilton, Highland, Meridian  
Exodus 20:15, 17

After the sanctity of life in the sixth commandment and the sanctity of marriage in the seventh commandment, there is the sanctity of property in the eighth commandment. This at first seems strange until we recall that life in the sight of God is wrapped up in material things as well as spiritual realities. The God who later is revealed in Jesus Christ as the God of the incarnation sanctifies everything pertaining to life.

#### I. Personal And Property Rights (Exodus 20:15)

By reason of industry and work a man becomes the possessor of material things. These can multiply through energy, toil, foresight and skill. Some are endowed with greater capacity and gift than others. It is inevitable that some will advance in gains whereas others will stand still. The lazy, the unskilled, and the inept are handicapped in the struggle of work and success. Inequalities in society will always exist because of the variations in life and character. The command is given to protect the rights of all men, whether rich or poor, whether possessing much or little.

Not only does the eighth commandment forbid stealing in the general sense and meaning usually implied, but we are warned in the larger relationship of the state. It is in this realm that many people are guilty of stealing. The enemies of Jesus were obviously concerned to trap him if they could in this dilemma yet they must have been guilty of defrauding the state even as they also robbed God. Socially and religiously; in state and in temple; as citizens and as worshippers they were caught in this dilemma and their sense of uneasiness and guilt was there.

When Jesus answered this question he pointed up the truth that we are not asked to choose between the state and God. Human government and divine government are not in conflict, both are necessary. This is a fundamental principle for human life, although Jefferson has said that there may be a situation in which rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God. Caesar has his place, for God has ordained that there should be human government (cf. Romans 13).

Citizenship is important and we are

given rights and privileges as citizens of our country. We should be willing and ready to honor government in the state by paying taxes. In our modern world we are not far removed from the early Christians who lived for the most part under despotic rule, while we live under benevolent and good government. Yet around us is the breakdown of civic and family authority and the disrespect given to high office. Some do nothing about their earthly citizenship — this is to take the benefits without responsibility; and others assume responsibility for taxes without a corresponding action to correct the abuses and amend the corruptions of our society and civic life. We need to recall that government is delegated by God. Christians in other parts of the world live in our day under totalitarianism even as the church did in the first century. We must not defraud or steal that which is due our lawful rulers who must be supported, even though we may not always agree with their personal ideas.

Swindling on many levels is possible. What shall we say about gambling? This erosion in our common life is stupendous. People gamble on racing and games, and in many ways they take their chances in the zest for the thrill of gaining more than others. Gambling is a fool's game, for the bookmaker wins or goes out of business. Gambling is the taking from others that which is not earned and so there is no honest work. The taker robs the man from whom he receives and the law of love is broken. The root of gambling is avarice and greed. When this dominates then life is polluted.

#### II. Thou Shalt Not Covet (Exodus 20:17)

In this prohibition God is bringing the light of his holy presence to bear upon the inner life. Our sins forbidden by the previous commandments deal with the outer acts, but this one is concerned with the private life of the individual. Here in his thinking, dreaming, brooding, and desiring a man is caught by greed. The appeal of the senses, the lust of the flesh, and sometimes the lure of the mind lead to this sin. It is not a desire for more; it is rather the desire for something a man does not possess. Envy brings discontent with ourself, but greed leads to overpowering another. To aspire to more may be

right if it means legitimate progress and advancement in work and investment of life and means. Greed, on the other hand, is the desire to have what you do not necessarily possess. This is the basis to take from others illegitimately or to acquire what is not ours by right.

Stealing is rooted in this broken commandment. The deeds of theft noted in our newspapers each day

suggest that the wrongdoers are desperate to possess what does not belong to them. This may be because they think they have not had the opportunities which others have, or it may be that they are jealous of what another possesses, either in goods or in gifts and ability. Thus the spirit is engendered to lust after and desire to have what rightly belongs to another. When the heart is set upon possession



## Life and Work Lesson

### Faith That Risks

By Bill Duncan,  
Long Beach, First  
Lake 19:11-27

Some Christians excuse their lack of service and faithfulness by claiming that they are not talented or as capable as some other people. The parable of the pounds teaches positively that God's demands do not call for superabundance. He simply calls for service which is honest, faithful, and productive according to one's natural ability. We are called to be our best selves for God.

Ty Cobb was known as a genius in all areas of baseball and was especially feared as a base runner. Most base runners depended upon the coaches at first and third base to know where the ball was and what to do. Cobb had this kind of help but he had more. He spent hours practicing running the bases until he could run always looking at the ball.

He would advance an extra base upon the slightest hesitation or slightest bobbie by an opposing player. Yet, he had to practice, practice, and practice to achieve the ability to do this and other special feats on the diamond. He gave a faithful accounting of his talent, time, and service. God expects no less from us.

In the parable of the pounds is the story of a rich man who gave his ten servants the same amount of money.

The servants made different use of the money and were therefore rewarded differently.

The occasion for the parable was the misunderstanding of the disciples about the false expectations of the appearing of the Messianic Kingdom. They were thinking the Kingdom would be ushered in when they got to Jerusalem.

Expectation was that there would be power and driving out of the Romans. In the parable, Jesus showed the disciples there would be a period of waiting before the Kingdom would come in all its glory. In the meanwhile, they were to serve faithfully in the midst of risk and hostility. Their share in the Kingdom would depend on their faithfulness during the time of waiting and how they carried out their stewardship.

#### The Certainty of His Return

There is the necessity for the Christian to wait patiently and work actively for Christ until he comes again. Jesus predicted the fall of the Jewish Temple and the coming of the Son of Man again. The son of Man would come on the clouds to judge all mankind. Because the Son of Man would come at an unexpected moment, like a thief in the night, the message is watchfulness in view of the unknown hour.

The trust of the pound of money was "while he was away." There was a de-

finite certainty of his return.

According to the parable, each servant was given a pound referring to money. A pound was a measure of twelve ounces and may have been worth 20 to 25 dollars. The amount had great purchasing power.

The nobleman divided his estate so that when he returned the business would have increased. He did not divide the estate according to ability as in the case of the parable. He wanted to test these particular slaves, so he gave them small but equal amounts. He did so with the instruction, "Occupy (trade or do business) 'til I come."

Jesus recognized individual differences. Each man had his own capacity, not equal ability. The equality of the gifts had to do with the chance to prove one's self.

#### The Conduct He Condemned

In the study of parables it is always a helpful rule to look toward the end of the parable for the main meaning. The servant who took the one pound and went and buried the money returned it. The servant was neither lazy nor careless. He had kept his pound with care. He was apparently hypnotized with fear for he had sized up the master as a very severe man.

The real problem with the servant was that he would not try. He should have proved himself more of a man had he risked and even failed. The man had fallen to the temptation to play it safe. He lacked imagination and depreciated his gift. In life, you see or you lose.

The nobleman took the pound away from the unfaithful servant and gave it to the one with ten pounds. The treatment may appear to be severe. Exposing the lack of logic and common sense, the nobleman called him "wicked." The man had played it safe and lost the opportunity.

#### The Conduct He Approved

The first servant had taken the one pound and had turned it into ten. The man must have had a good deal of finesse and mental quickness. His profit was 900 percent.

Another servant, given one pound, was able to turn it into five pounds. This servant may have had less ability but with as much diligence, he had done well with his pound.

The people may have not had equal ability in achievement, but the nobleman praised those equal in effort. He praised the two faithful servants in exactly the same way. The real issue is faithfulness. It is the good and faithful servant that the Lord approves. Of course, the average should not be our standard as Christians. It is our responsibility to make the best of ourselves with what we have.

Not all men can be rich. Not all men can be famous. Therefore, God demands that each man give to his Lord a faithful accounting of his stewardship. Not all men who are faithful are equally productive. So God demands from his servants only that kind of return which represents honest service.

The parable speaks directly to the responsibility of the Christian.